Frontispiece

Lewis XIV. the Encourager of Arts, Manufacture & Commerce.

Frontispiece

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THE

HISTORY of FRANCE,

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD,

COMPREHENDING

Every Intereſting and Remarkable Occurrence

IN THE ANNALS OF THAT MONARCHY

TO ITS

ABOLITION IN SEPTEMBER, 1792.

BY

THE REV. MR. COOPER.

EMBELLISHED WITH COPPER-PLATE CUTS, AND DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY FOR THE USE OF YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

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PREFACE.

THE Hiſtories of England and France are ſo cloſely connected, that, in order to underſtand the one properly, we muſt not be wholly unacquainted with the other. Indeed, France is not only a Neighbour of England, in point of ſituation, but, in a great meaſure, ſimilar in their faſhions, cuſtoms, and manners. In the following ſheets, we have endeavoured to give an impartial detail of the moſt intereſting and important events that have paſſed on the theatre of that monarchy; and we flatter ourſelves, that we ſhall be found leſs partial in our repreſentation of the affairs of France, than Voltaire has been in his relation of thoſe of England.

There are, perhaps, few hiſtories that will afford the youthful reader more frequent opportunities to contemplate on the viciſſitudes of human affairs, than

this of France. We ſometimes ſee them torn by inteſtine broils, then uniting and performing prodigies of valour, againſt a foreign enemy, on the hoſtile plain; ſometimes, and too often, the reins of government totally guided by looſe and ambitious women; then taken from them, and aſſumed by the greateſt politicians Europe ever produced.

We have continued this Hiſtory of France down to the abolition of its Monarchy; but what may be the fate of its newly-eſtabliſhed republican government, or how long it may laſt, we ſhall not preſume even to conjecture.

We have further only to obſerve, that, having now ſupplied the young Hiſtorian with the ſeparate hiſtories of England, Greece, Rome, France, and North and South America, we wiſh him to peruſe them with that care and attention, which cannot fail of enlightening his mind, exalting his ideas, and ſtrengthening his virtue and judgment.

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MEMORABLE EVENTS

IN THE

REIGNS

OF THE

HOUSE OF BOURBON.

1590. The Parisians reduced to make bread of dead men's bones.
1593. Henry IV. abjures the Protestant religion.
1598. Edict of Nantes published, in favour of the Protestants.
1608. The United Provinces of Holland declared independent States.
1610. Henry IV. assassinated by Ravilliac.
1628. The Siege of Rochelle.
1642. Death of Cardinal Richlieu.
1643. Lewis XIII. died.
1661. Cardinal Mazarin died.

1692. The French fleet defeated at La Hogue.
1715. Lewis XIV. died.
1747. The French navy reduced to a ſingle ſhip of war.
1748. The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle concluded.
1763. The peace of Fontainbleau concluded.
1774. Death of Lewis XV.
1789. Revolutions in France.
1792. The Royal Authority ſuſpended. The Monarchy changed into a Republic.

A

NEW HISTORY

OF

FRANCE.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is not any history of a country which is better authenticated than that of France; and it is particularly interesting to an English reader from the connection which has so long subsisted between the two nations.

Gaul was the ancient name of that large and powerful kingdom which we now call France, a word derived from the Franks who conquered it. In the middle ages it was called in Latin Franco-Gallia, or Francio, and from thence came its French name, France.

This extensive kingdom lies betwixt the 42d and 52d degrees of northern latitude, between the 5th degree of western, and 8th degree of eastern longitude. Its northern boundaries are the Channel, or the British

ocean; eaſtward it confines on Germany, Swiſſerland, Savoy, and Piedmont; ſouthward on the Mediterranean and Spain; and its weſtern limits is the Atlantic ocean. Its greateſt length, from Cape Conquet, in Brittany, to Straſburg, is 200 leagues; and its breadth from South to North, from Ruſillon to Dunkirk, 150 leagues. Its whole content is reckoned at 10,000 geographical miles.

The climate of France makes it one of the beſt and pleaſanteſt countries in Europe, being ſubject neither to the ſevere cold of the northern, nor the ſultry heats of the more ſouthern climates; and particularly in the middle parts, nothing can be more mild and temperate.

The Pyrenees ſeperate France from Spain, as the Alps from Italy. In Languedoc are the Cevennes and Alps; and the county of Auvergne is likewiſe full of high mountains. The county of Burgundy is ſeparated from Swiſſerland by the Jura Chain, as Lorrain is from Alſace, by the mountains of Vauage.

The principal rivers in France are the Loire, which riſes in Languedoc, out of the mountain Gerbier le Joux, between the Vivarias and Velai; and after receiving ſeveral other rivers in its courſe, diſcharges itſelf into the Alantic ocean, fifteen leagues below Nantz in Brittany. The Seine. The ſource of this river, is above Chanceaux, two leagues from St. Seine. It runs through Paris, paſſes by Rouen,

and

and joins the Channel between Havre de Grace and Honfleur.

The Rhone. This river riſes in Mount Furke, in Swiſſerland, through which it runs into the lake of Geneva, and below that town, loſes itſelf in a narrow cliff of rock, and diſcharges itſelf into the Mediterranean, by three mouths, Gras de Sauye, Saint Anne, and le Grand Gras.

The Garonne, which iſſues from the mountain of Aure in the Pyrenees, into the Valley of Aran in Gaſcony, and runs into the Atlantic ocean by two mouths, Le Pas de Anes, and le Pas de Grave. All theſe rivers are navigable, and communicate either with themſelves or with other rivers, by canals.

France has in all ages been celebrated for its fertility; and very juſtly, as producing ſufficiently and even abundantly almoſt every thing requiſite to the neceſſity, convenience, and pleaſures of life; the animal kingdom affords horned cattle, ſheep, game, wild and tame fowl. In horſes, and particularly the large and ſtrong kind, it is ſomewhat deficient; but this in ſeveral parts is made up by aſſes and mules. The ſouthern provinces afford ſilk worms which ſpin great quantities of ſilk, but not ſufficient to ſupply the manufactures. France is well ſupplied with fiſh both from the ſea and the rivers. The vegetable kingdom in France is very conſiderable; for beſides timber and wood for fuel, it pro-

duces the beſt kind of apples, pears, plumbs, peaches, apricots, cheſnuts, and olive trees. Several of the provinces alſo afford capers, ſaffron wood, and tobacco: but of all the fruits and vegetables in France, the moſt profitable is the vine, with which all the provinces abound, Picardy alone excepted. The French fruits and vegetables are exquiſite. In common years, the corn of its own growth ſuffices; but it is ſubject to frequent ſcarcities from ſeveral cauſes. Of hemp and flax it has likewiſe a ſufficiency.

France affords minerals, but with little or none of the two principal metals, gold and ſilver; for, though anciently very fine gold was found in Gaul, yet the mines have been long ſince exhauſted, and the few ſilver veins remaining are not of ſuch richneſs as to clear the coſts of working them. Copper it has plenty, and ſtill more iron; but very little tin and lead. Though France yields no gems, it has excellent marble, and ſome part abounds in pitcoal. Salt is made both from ſprings and from the ſea; and ſalt-petre in moſt parts of the kingdom. France has many mineral waters and warm baths, and ſome famous for their virtues in certain diſtempers.

The inhabitants of France, conſidered originally, conſiſt of a mixture of ſeveral people. The Gauls, the Aborigines, were ſucceſſively invaded by the Romans, the Burgundians,

gundians, the Goths and the Bretons, the Franks and the Normans.

As to a general deſcription of the French they are comely and well ſhaped, very active and lively, with a great ſhare of wit, and a natural diſpoſition and aptitude for all bodily exerciſes. They are naturally ſociable, and their ſociality is directed by good ſenſe; excluding all reſtraints and affected gravity from converſation; but punctual obſervers of real decency. Another of their commendable qualities, is complaiſance and a readineſs to oblige, which they practiſe not only towards relations and acquaintance, but likewiſe to ſtrangers, whom they treat with great civilty, contracting friendſhip with them as readily as with their own countrymen; and ſhewing themſelves not only diſintereſted but even generous and noble in their friendſhip.

But theſe good qualities are not without great alloy. The complaiſance of the French is often overdone; and that ſprightlineſs and wit, otherwiſe ſo taking, ſeems to be not purely natural. In the mean time, amidſt this exceſſive fondneſs for wit, which is as it were an epidemical diſtemper among them, the underſtanding is neglected, as of little or no account; the effect of which is, that they frequently miſtake the ſhadow for the ſubſtance, and ſeek merit in external appearances, and things of no affinity with it. As they account no nation can come in compe-

tition with them for wit, ſo they arrogate to themſelves the like ſuperiority in qualities really praiſe worthy; and eſpecially intrepidity and military courage.

Courage, that capital virtue of the nobility, was formerly productive of great miſchiefs among them by duels; and families would have utterly extirpated each other, had not Lewis the XIVth put a ſevere check to this ſanguinary practice.

Their natural levity ſubjects them in their own deportment, and particularly in their cloathing, to the tyranny of faſhion, which is ever varying; and yet is ſubmitted to by almoſt every European nation as well as the French, except the Spaniards. All the dark parts of the French character meet in thoſe they call PETIT MAITRES, who in their whole demeanour, in their way of thinking, in their talk and in their dreſs, affect a ridiculous diſtinction from other people; and all ranks abound with theſe fantaſtical creatures. The fair ſex in France, whoſe morals are ſo much complained of, ape every thing criminal and abſurd which they ſee in thoſe and other men; and once two females of diſtinction went ſo far as to fight a duel.

Under the dominion of the Romans, in Gaul, their language became ſo general as totally to explode the Celtic, which was ſpoken by the inhabitants. The Franks introduced the German, which appears to have

continued

continued ſome time among them, to have been the court language under the Merovingians and Carlovingians. The mixture of the languages of the Franks and other nations, who came and ſettled in Gaul, with the Romans, produced a dialect quite new, with a corrupt Latin for its ground. This at firſt was very rugged and irregular, but by degrees became poliſhed and improved, eſpecially ſince the time of Francis I. who, in the year 1539, prohibited the uſe of Latin in the Law Courts, which till then had been a conſtant practice. At laſt the academy inſtituted by Cardinal Richlieu, under Lewis the XIIIth and Lewis the XIVth, brought the language to that regularity, energy, and elegance, by which it gained ſuch vogue, that at preſen tit may be looked on as the general language of Europe.

France, in compariſon of other European countries, is very populous. Its inhabitants in the year 1621, are ſaid to have amounted to twenty-five millions, and in 1733, to twenty-two, whereas in other years, they did not exceed nineteen millions. At preſent it is very difficult to make any computation, on account of the civil commotions with which France is diſtracted.

Of the Tranſactions in France, from the earlieſt Accounts, to the End of the Merovingian Princes, or thoſe of the firſt Race.

ABOUT 47 years before the birth of Chriſt, Gaul, or that country which is now called France, was conquered, after a brave reſiſtance, by Julius Cæſar, and annexed to the Roman empire. It continued in the poſſeſſion of that diſtinguiſhed nation, till the deſtruction of Rome in the 5th century, when it became a prey to the Goths, the Burgundians, and the Franks, who ſubdued, but did not extirpate, the ancient natives.

The Franks themſelves, who gave it the name of France, or Frankenland, were a collection of ſeveral people inhabiting Germany, and particularly the Salii, who lived on the banks of the river Sale, and who cultivated the principles of Juriſprudence better than their neighbours. Theſe Salii had a rule which the reſt of the Franks are ſaid to have adopted, and has been, by the modern Franks, applied to the ſucceſſion of the Throne, excluding all females from the inheritance of ſovereignty, and is well known by the name of the Salic law.

The Franks and Burgundians, after eſtabliſhing their power, and reducing the original natives to a ſtate of ſlavery, parcelled out the

the lands among their princpal leaders; and ſucceeding kings found it neceſſary to confirm their privileges, allowing them to exerciſe ſovereign authority in their reſpective governments, until they at length aſſumed an independency, and only acknowledged the king as their head. This gave riſe to thoſe numerous principalities that were formerly in France, and the ſeveral parliaments; for every province became in its policy and government, an epitome of the whole kingdom; and no laws were made, or taxes raiſed, without the concurrence of the grand council, conſiſting of the clergy, and of the nobility.

The firſt king of the Franks was Pharamond, who governed all thoſe provinces now called Weſtphalia and Franconia, and all the country between the Rhine and the Elbe. He flouriſhed about the year of Chriſt 418, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a great warrior, amid the revolutions of the empire in the weſt. Clodian, Merovœus, and his ſon, Childeric, ſucceeded; but hiſtorians are ſo little acquainted with the tranſactions of their reigns, that they often begin the hiſtory of France with Clovis, who may be conſidered as the real founder of the Monarchy.

CLOVIS aſcended the throne in the year 481; he was the ſon of Childeric, King of the Franks, and eſtabliſhed the dominion of that nation in Gaul, where they had been ſettled ever ſince the year 287. This ſettle-

ment was confirmed to them in 358, by the Emperor Julian, and was abſolutely fixed under Clodion towards the year 438, after the expedition by which this Prince obtained poſſeſſion of Cambray, and of the neighbouring country as far as the Somme. Clovis died at the age of forty-five years, of which he had reigned thirty: He left four ſons behind him, Thierry, Clodomir, Childebert, and Clotharius, who parted the monarchy between them. Thierry had the kingdom of Metz, Clodomir that of Orleans, Childebert that of Paris, and Clotharius that of Soiſſons.

After ſeveral years, Clotharius ſucceeded his three brothers; and his ſon Chramne, whom he had by a concubine, rebelling againſt him in the year 560, he defeated him in a pitched battle, and burnt him and his whole family, in a cottage to which he had fled for ſhelter.

Two years afterwards, Clotharius died at Campaigne, in the one and fiftieth year of his reign. He was ſucceeded by his four ſons, Cherebert, Gontran, Sigebert, and Chilperic.

To Cherebert was allotted the kingdom of Paris: to Gontran was given that of Orleans; to Sigebert, Auſtracia, now called Lorraine; and to Chilperic, Soiſſons. This latter was guilty of many enormities. He ſtrangled his wife in her bed, oppreſſed his ſubjects in a moſt

moſt tyrannical manner; and after having been many years deteſted by his ſubjects, he was murdered at a hunting match. After a variety of unintereſting revolutions, the monarchy, in the year 613, was united in Clotharius II. ſon of the above mentioned Chilperic.

This Prince was a lover of peace and juſtice, and appears firſt to have held a regular parliament; he died after a reign of fourteen years, regretted by all his people, leaving the kingdom to his two ſons, Dagobert and Cherebert.

DAGOBERT I. from the death of his brother Cherebert, ſoon became ſole King of France. He founded the church of St. Denis, where moſt of the monarchs of France have ſince been buried. The mayors of the palace in this reign invaded the royal authority, and dictated to this Prince and his ſucceſſors, till Pepin was placed upon the throne. After the death of Dagobert in 644, his two ſons ſhared the kingdom. Sigebert, the eldeſt, died ſoon, and Clovis the Second was ſucceeded in the year 656, by Clotharius III. who left the crown in 670, to Childeric II. ſon of Clovis and Dagobert II. ſon of the above-named Sigebert. Theſe Princes were murdered, one in 673, and the other in 687, and left their title to Thierry III. brother to Dagobert.

Thierry died in the year 692, leaving two ſons, Clovis III. who ſucceeded him, and Childibert III who acceded to the crown after his brother.

DAGOBERT III. Son of Childibert the Third, came to the throne in 714, but had no more authority than his father. Pepin died ſoon after, and his baſtard ſon, Charles Martel, was acknowledged by the inhabitants Duke of Auſtraſia. Dagobert died, and left a ſon called Thierry, who did not immediately ſucceed him, as Daniel, a ſon of Chilperic I. was taken out of a monaſtery, where he had been ſhut up, and placed on the throne by the name of Chilperic II. In 719, Charles Martel united the whole authority of the French empire, but politically choſe to be only mayor of the palace to Chilperic, who died in 720, leaving his crown to Thierry IVth, ſon of Dagobert III. This great man, after enjoying the fruits of his valour in peace, died and left the kingdom between his ſons Carloman and Pepin; but the latter thinking it politic to put an end to the interregnum, filled up the throne with Childeric III. ſon of Childeric II. Pepin defeated the Bavarians and the Saxons; and after ſuffering Childeric to bear the name of a King about ten years, he formally dethroned him, and ſhut him up in a monaſtery, where he died a few years after; and thus ended the

race

race of the Merovingian Kings, after they had filled the throne for the ſpace of 270 years, computing from Clovis.

Remarkable Events during the Reigns of the MEROVINGIAN *Princes, or thoſe of the Firſt Race.*

IN the year 501, duels were eſtabliſhed by law.

543, St. Benedict founded the monaſtic order in the weſt.

622, The flight of Mahomet from Mecca, which the Turks call the *Hegira.*

635, The famous church of St. Denis founded.

732, Charles Martel defeated the King of the Saracens, who were ſaid to have loſt 300,000 men.

743, The Chriſtians firſt began to reckon the years from the incarnation of our bleſſed Saviour.

The SECOND RACE; *or, The* KINGS *of the* CARLOVINGIAN *Line.*

PEPIN acceded to the Throne in the year 751, about the age of thirty-seven.

It is sufficient to observe, that the acceſſion of Pepin was the firſt inſtance, in which the Crown was transferred to a ſtrange family. During the whole time of the firſt race, it was worn only by the deſcendants of Clovis, indeed without any right of ſeniority, or diſtinction between legitimate and natural children; and with the circumſtance of partition. It was poſſeſſed in the ſame manner under the ſecond race by the ſons of Pepin; but as this Prince dethroned the lawful heir, his deſcendants underwent the ſame fate. At length, under the third race, the hereditary right was ſo well eſtabliſhed, that the kings had it no longer in their power to change the order of ſucceſſion; ſo that the Crown devolved to their eldeſt ſon by an eſtabliſhed cuſtom. Pepin was proclaimed King of France at Soiſſons, and was the firſt King that was crowned and anointed according to the rites of the church.

In 753, he defeated the Saxons, who, notwithſtanding the treaties concluded with that Prince, refuſed to acknowledge his authority. Five years afterwards he made war againſt the Saxons, the Sclavonians, the Bavarians, and the

the duke of Aquitaine, who had given ſhelter to his brother Griffon. He drove the Saracens out of the country formerly held by the Goths, and was victorious on every ſide.

Pepin, by his wife Birtha, had ſeveral children, particularly Charlemain and Carloman, who ſucceeded him at his death in the year 768, which was occaſioned by a dropſy in the 54th year of his age, and 17th of his reign. This monarch had all the great qualities of a hero.

CHARLEMAIN the GREAT, and his brother Carloman, ſucceeded their father. Their ambition created an uneaſineſs between them, on account of the apportionment of their dominions. Deſiderius, king of the Lombards, and the Duke of Bavaria, encouraged this miſunderſtanding; but it was ſoon determined by the death of Carloman, who was interred at Rheimes in 771, on which Charlemain became ſole maſter of the French monarchy.

This great king entered into a war againſt the Saxons, which laſted thirty years: he defeated them in the neighbourhood of Paderborn, and plundered their famous temple, where the idol Irminſul was worſhiped.

In 774, was the extinction of the kingdom of the Lombards, (which had laſted 206 years) in the perſon of Deſiderius, who, wanting to make himſelf maſter of Italy, and to prevent Charlemain from oppoſing his de-

ſign, cut out work for that Prince at home, by aſſerting the rights of the two ſons of Carloman, his ſon-in-law, to whom he granted ſhelter. Charlemain paſſed Mount Cennes, beat Deſiderius, and took him priſoner, and was crowned king of the Lombards.

Charlemain introduced the Gregorian ſong into France, and by eſtabliſhing a ſchool within his palace, which became a model to ſeveral others, he merited the title of Reſtorer of Learning. The royal taſte, as it generally happens, rendered learning faſhionable; nay, the very ladies followed the example, and one in particular diſtinguiſhed herſelf in the ſcience of aſtronomy.

In the year 800, Charlemain was crowned Emperor of the Weſt, by Leo III. Thus that empire, which expired in the year 476, in Auguſtulus, the laſt emperor of the weſt, and which was afterwards filled by the Heruli, by the Aſtrogoths, and the Lombards, revived again in Charlemain, and continues to this day. The king of Perſia, about this time, reſigned the holy land to this Prince by his ambaſſadors.

An aſſembly was held in 806, in which Charlemain divided his dominions among his three ſons, and made a will for that purpoſe, which was confirmed by the French lords, and by Pope Leo: but what was very remarkable, he left thoſe people at liberty to chuſe themſelves a maſter, after the deceaſe of

of the princes, his ſons, provided he was of the blood royal.

Two years afterwards, the barbarous nations of the North, the Normans, Angles, Danes, &c. began to make themſelves known by their piratical deſcents upon the coaſt of France. Charlemain, with great concern, foreſaw the ravages they were likely to commit, and therefore endeavoured to prevent them: with this view he viſited his harbours, and built a number of ſhips of war, to be always manned and ready to put to ſea; and what appears incredible, he had them ſtationed from the mouth of the Tiber, to the extremity of Germany, that is, as far as Denmark.

This great Prince (ſays Eginhard) *wore only a plain doublet in winter, made of an otter's ſkin, a woollen tunic fringed with ſilk, and a blue coat or caſſock; his hoſe conſiſted of tranſverſe bands or fillets of different colours.* He would march with the greateſt rapidity from the Pyrenean mountains into Germany, and from Germany into Italy. The whole world echoed his name. He was the talleſt and ſtrongeſt man of his time. In this reſpect, he reſembled the heroes of fabulous ſtory: he differed from them, as he thought that force is of uſe only to conquer; but laws are neceſſary to govern. Accordingly he enacted ſeveral after the form obſerved in thoſe days, that is, in mixed aſſemblies, compoſed of a

number of biſhops and the principal lords of the nation.

LEWIS I. *ſurnamed Debonnaire, Emperor,* and *King of France,* aſcended the throne in the year 814, on the death of Charlemain, at the age of thirty-ſix, was proclaimed Emperor at Aix-la-Chapelle, and crowned in 816 at Rheimes by Pope Stephen. He married the Princeſs Ermangerole, and conciliated the affections of the Saxons, by reſtoring them to the rights of ſucceſſion, of which they had been deprived by Charlemain. He ſent his eldeſt ſon, Lotharius, into Bavaria, and Pepin into Aquitaine, in order to govern thoſe provinces, but kept Lewis, his youngeſt at home.

Lewis having vanquiſhed the Gaſcons, Bretons and Hungarians and loſt his conſort, married a ſecond wife in 819, Judith, a Bavarian Princeſs, whoſe gallantry and ambition proved the ſource of all his misfortunes. Lotharius was crowned Emperor by Pope Paſchal, in the year 823.

Seven years afterwards, Charles the bald, the Emperor's ſon, by his wife Judith, having had no ſhare in the former partition, obtained Almania, together with Rhatia, and part of Burgundy, which were diſmembered from the dominions of his three brothers. Theſe princes were offended at this diviſion; and alleged as a reaſon the bad conduct of their ſtep-mother, who they ſaid was guilty of

of an intrigue with Bernard, Count of Barcelona: they pretended to avenge the honour of their father, who, inſenſible of the ſhame of his family, had conferred the principal employments in the kingdom, together with his whole confidence, to a man who brought diſgrace upon his name. But inſtead of avenging his cauſe, they ſtripped him of his dominions. Pepin advancing as far as Verberie, obliged his father and his wife Judith to retire to a monaſtery, and with great difficulty complied with their requeſt for allowing them ſome time before they put on the religious habit; a delay which contributed to their reſtoration. The jealouſy of the three brothers and the haughtineſs of Lotharius, ſaved Lewis the Debonnaire, who with the aſſiſtance of Garabaud the monk, was reſtored to his crown in a diet held at Nimeguen, where Lotharius was excluded from his partnerſhip in the imperial dignity. The emperor took his wife out of the Convent, in which ſhe had been forced to aſſume a religious habit; and both for his own honour as well as for Judith's, he made her ſwear ſhe was innocent of all the crimes laid to her charge, beſides ſubmitting herſelf to the *Ordeal* or trial by fire.

In the year 833 the emperor's three ſons conſpired againſt him a ſecond time, and joined their troops in a plain between Baſil

and Stralſburg, ſince called the *field* of *Lies*. Pope Gregory the fourth, having according to ſeveral authors, eſpouſed their cauſe, and conſented to follow their camp, they ſeized the emperor's perſon, who finding himſelf deſerted by the whole army, was obliged to abdicate the throne. They conducted him to St. Medards at Soiſſons, where he was clad in a penetential habit; Judith they baniſhed to Sartona and confined young Charles to the abbey of Prum. But new diviſions among the three brothers [in 834] preſerved the emperor once more; ſo that he was reſtored to his crown in the Church of St. Denis, and had alſo the pleaſure of meeting with his wife. Lotharius, refuſing to approve of this ſettlement, retired into Burgundy, where he aſſembled a few troops, but at length was obliged to ſubmit to his father, who forgave him.

In 835 the emperor, finding himſelf infirm and declining, made a new partition among his children, ſtill without nominating a ſucceſſor to the empire. To Lotharius he gave Italy; to Lewis Germany and Saxony; to Pepin, Aquitaine; and to Charles, France and Burgundy. This diviſion gave freſh offence to the three eldeſt brothers, with whom he was obliged to renew the war. Three years afterwards Pepin died, and the Emperor to puniſh that prince's two ſons, for the faults

faults of their father, or rather to pleaſe Judith, gave Pepin's ſpoils to his ſon Charles, in prejudice to his grand children.

The nobility of Aquitaine could not bear ſo flagrant an act of injuſtice. The emperor marched an army into their country, and obliged them to ſubmit; while his ſon Lewis of Bavaria, taking advantage of this diverſion, ſeized all the towns that ſuited his convenience. Lewis however was obliged to turn back, in order to ſtop the courſe of his father's conqueſts. This expedition of Lewis the Debonnaire againſt his own ſon the King of Bavaria, proved fatal to the unfortunate father. He had conceived a diſlike to this laſt journey, and was greatly ſhocked at the unnatural behaviour of his children, with whom he was obliged to be perpetually at war.

A total eclipſe of the ſun happened upon his march, which terrified him to the higheſt degree, his imagination being already weakened by his misfortunes, and by ſuperſtition, ſo that he died at length with vexation and faſting, after an illneſs of forty days.

CHARLES *the Bald*, his ſon, aſcended the throne at the age of 17, in the year 840. He entered into an alliance with Lewis of Bavaria againſt the Emperor Lotharius, whom they ſoon after conquered at the battle of Fontenoy. They afterwards, in 844, concluded a peace, when Charles kept Aquitaine

taine and Neuſtria; Lewis had all Germany, and Lotharius Italy.

Charles in the year 875 obtained the imperial crown by the death of the Emperor Lewis 2d. Charles died at Brios, a village on this ſide of Mount Cenis, being poiſoned by a Jew phyſician, in whom he repoſed an entire confidence. He was buried in the priory of Nantua; but his bones were ſoon afterwards removed to St. Denis. He had been king of France 38 years, and Emperor two years. He was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon,

LEWIS II. *ſurnamed the Stammerer*, who was crowned in the year 877. After an unintereſting reign of two years, he departed this life, and the remainder of this race affording nothing but a ſcene of trouble and confuſion, deſtitute of any great events, we ſhall content ourſelves with treating them as briefly as poſſible.

LEWIS III. *and* CARLOMAN, ſons of the laſt mentioned king, ſucceeded him in the year 879, and ſhared the empire between them. Lewis died ſoon after without iſſue, and left his brother Carloman ſole king of France, who in 884 was killed by a wild boar. He was ſucceeded by

CHARLES *the* FAT, ſon of Lewis the Germanic, who aſcended the throne in prejudice to Charles the Simple, and enjoyed almoſt

almoſt as great an extent of dominions as Charlemain; but, being too weak to bear ſuch good fortune, he ſunk under its weight.

In 888, Charles died without iſſue, the ſcorn and contempt of his people, and was ſucceeded by

EUDES, *Count of Paris*, ſon of Robert le Fort, who was proclaimed in prejudice of Charles the Simple. He died after a reign of 10 years.

CHARLES, *ſurnamed the Simple*, began his reign in 898. After ſeveral inteſtine wars among the nobility of France, Charles obtained the above degrading ſurname for not making a proper uſe of the advantages he had gained over the Duke of Lorrain. Charles killed in battle the brother of Eudes, the late King, who had ſet up a powerful party againſt him; yet he did not gain the victory, but was beaten, and obliged to fly for ſhelter to Herbert, Count of Vermandois, who confined him to the caſtle of Peronne, where he died in the year 929.

The wife of Charles the Simple was called Edgina, and was daughter of Edward, King of England; ſhe made her eſcape into that country, where ſhe was cordially received by her brother Athelſtan. She took her ſon Lewis with her, who, for that reaſon, was ſurnamed the Tranſmarine. This Princeſs, after having given ſignal marks of her fortitude during the whole courſe of her life, concluded at laſt,

laſt, after her huſband's deceaſe, another marriage, with Herbert, Count of Vermandois, who had kept Charles the Simple in confinement during the laſt ſeven years of his life.

RODOLPH was crowned before the death of Charles; but many of his ſubjects never acknowledged his authority. After divers wars with the Bretons, he died in 936, without iſſue.

Hugh the Great, his brother-in-law, refuſed to accept of the Crown; but, in order to pave the way for his future grandeur, which he had been long meditating, ſent for Lewis Tranſmarine, who had been before conveyed by his mother into England.

LEWIS IV. *ſurnamed Tranſmarine*, aſcended the Throne at the age of ſixteen, in the year 937, and was diſturbed during the greateſt part of his reign by inteſtine commotions.

In the year 954, Lewis Tranſmarine died at Rheims, of a fall from his horſe: he was interred in that city, and left, among other iſſue, Lothaire, and Charles duke of Lorrain.

LOTHAIRE, the eldeſt ſon of Lewis, ſucceeded to the Throne in 954. He continued under the protection of Hugh the Great, who died two years afterwards, leaving ſeveral children behind him; the eldeſt, Hugh Capet, ſome years after, aſcended the throne.—This long reign did not afford any conſiderable event, and the King died of poiſon, ſaid

ſaid to have been given him by his wife Emma, in the year 985.

LEWIS V. *ſurnamed the Slothful*, ſon of Lothaire and Emma, was crowned at the age of twenty, and married Blanche of Aquitaine, by whom he had no iſſue. He reigned but one year, and died of poiſon at Compeigne, in the ſame manner as his father.

His uncle Charles ſhould, by right, have ſucceeded him; but Hugh Capet ſeized the crown.

Thus ended the Carlovingian race, which laſted 236 years.

Remarkable Events during the Reign of the CARLOVINGIAN *Race.*

766, Peter's pence collected in England, by Offa, King of Mercia.

810, The Latin ceaſed to be the Vulgar Tongue in France.

827, Egbart united all the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy into one great State.

832, The Danes landed in England, at the Iſle of Shepey.

851, The Danes wintered in England, and burnt Canterbury, London, and laid waſte the County of Surrey.

880, Alfred, founder of the Engliſh Monarchy, defeated the Danes.

901, Alfred the Great died, after a glorious reign of 29 years.

N. B.

N. B. A ſheep, in theſe times, ſold for fifteen-pence of our money;—ſilk and cotton were quite unknown,—linen but little uſed;—a horſe was valued at thirty ſix ſhillings of our money;—a mare a third leſs;—an ox ſold for fifteen ſhillings;—four fat fowls for ſix-pence, and land for twenty-pence an acre of the preſent money.

955, Biſhop Dunſtan, commonly called St. Dunſtan, raiſed cabals in England.

986, About this time, the Normans began their intercourſe with the Engliſh nation.

HUGH CAPET, from whom the preſent reigning family is deſcended, was raiſed by the nobility to the Throne. Theſe were confirmed by him in the poſſeſſion of the provinces which they had, in the late confuſed times, required. He annexed to the crown, to which ſcarce any thing before belonged, the county of Paris, the duchy of France, which included all the country between the Seine and Loire, and the county of Orleans. He died in the year 996, aged 55 years.

ROBERT I. ſon of Hugh Capet, ſucceeded to the Crown in the year 996, at the age of 25. He was born, baptized and crowned at Orleans. He became, at the death of his uncle, maſter of the duchy of Burgundy. He afterwards married Bertha, of the

the houſe of Burgundy; but, as ſhe was within the degrees of Conſanguinity, prohibited by the Canon law, he firſt obtained the conſent of the Biſhops. For this they threatened to excommunicate him, unleſs he would agree to a ſeparation. The King refuſed to obey. All the Biſhops concerned in the marriage, repaired to Rome, and made the ſubmiſſion to the Pope. The People, and even the courtiers, deſerted the King. His domeſtics, who were obliged to attend him, made every thing he had touched, paſs through the fire, in order to purify it. Robert at length complying, Bertha was diſmiſſed, and, in a ſhort time after, he married Conſtantia, daughter of William Count of Province and Arles. The King departed this life at Melun, the 20th of July, 1031, aged ſixty years.

HENRY I. ſecond ſon to Robert, ſucceeded to the Crown July 20, 1031, aged 27 years. Conſtantia, Henry's mother, ſtill deſirous of preferring her younger ſon Robert to Henry, excited a rebellion, in which ſhe was ſupported by Eudes, Count of Champagne, and Baldwin, Count of Flanders. Robert, ſurnamed the Devil, Duke of Normandy, aſſiſted Henry in ſubduing the rebels. Henry pardoned his brother Robert, and gave him the duchy of Burgundy of the blood royal.—Queen Conſtantia died in the year 1032.—Henry I. departed this life towards the cloſe of the year 1060.

PHILIP

PHILIP I. ſon to Henry, aſcended the Throne in the year 1060. At eight years of age, he had been crowned at Rheims, in his father's life-time. He, as his grandfather had before been, was excommunicated, on the account of his marriage; but he at laſt obtained a diſpenſation from the Pope. In this reign, William Duke of Normandy conquered England; which laid the foundation of unſpeakable miſchiefs to France, the two kingdoms being, for many years after, perpetually at war.

About the ſame time, cruſades, for which the madneſs laſted above 200 years, were firſt thought of. Theſe expeditions were very profitable to Popes, who not only took upon themſelves to appoint and protect the commanders in them, but had alſo an opportunity of ſelling many indulgencies. Another great advantage to Popes was, that all donations towards the carrying of them on, were collected and diſtributed by their Nuncios. The King died in the year 1108.

Lewis VI. *ſurnamed Craſſus*, ſucceeded his father in the year 1108, aged 30 years. This Prince, beſides being at war with Henry I. of England, was greatly diſturbed by ſome Barons at home. Theſe appeared in open arms againſt him, and by the ſtrength of their caſtles gave him a good deal of trouble. But he ſoon got the better of them.—

The

The King died in the year 1137, aged 60 years.

LEWIS VII. *ſurnamed the Young*, aſcended to the Crown on the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1137, aged 18. He was ſurnamed the Young, to diſtinguiſh him from his father, with whom he had reigned in conjunction for ſome years. The greateſt part of his long reign was ſpent in an unfortunate expedition to the Holy Lands, and in quarrels with his own Barons, and with Henry II. of England. He died of the palſy, in the year 1180, aged 60 years.

PHILIP II. *ſurnamed Auguſtus*, ſucceeded to the Crown in 1180, at the age of 15. He had been crowned at Rheims, in his father's time. He took ſeveral places which belonged to Henry II. of England, in France, but reſtored them to his ſon Richard, with whom he ſet out for the Holy Land. He died in the year 1223.

LEWIS VIII. *ſurnamed Cœur de Lion*, ſucceeded his father, the 14th of July, 1223, aged 36. The reign of this Prince was very ſhort. He took, however, from the Engliſh, Rochelle, and ſome other places in France.—He died in the year 1226, aged 39.

LEWIS IX. *called St. Lewis*, aſcended the Throne in the year 1226, aged 12 years. During this minority, the nobility conſpired, but without ſucceſs, againſt Blanche of Caſtile, his mother, who had the adminiſtration of affairs. The town of Jeruſalem being in the

the year 1244 ſacked by the Choraſmians, a people of Perſia, Lewis, at that time dangerouſly ill, vowed, that if he recovered, he would in perſon undertake an expedition againſt the Infidels.

Before his ſetting out, he gave public notice that he was ready to make ſatisfaction to any of his ſubjects whom he had wronged or injured, and it was done. In this expedition, he took Damieta; and after the waters of the Nile, which for ſome time ſtopt his progreſs, were down, he gained two victories over the Infidels; but as theſe were conſiderably reinforced, and proviſions failed in the French army, amongſt whom the ſcurvy at the ſame time raged, he thought proper to retreat. In returning to Damieta his army was defeated, and being himſelf made priſoner, he was, for his ranſom, forced to ſurrender up Damieta, and pay 400,000 livres. With the remains of this army, from thirty to ſix thouſand men, he made the beſt of his way to Ptolemais; and, after giving all the aſſiſtance he could to the Chriſtians, they returned home.

Conrade, King of Naples and Sicily, being aſſaſſinated in this reign by Mainfroy, a natural ſon of the Emperor Frederick II. his dominions were offered by the Pope, of whom they were held as a Fief, to Charles Duke of Anjou, brother of Lewis. He accepted of theſe, and was crowned at Rome in the year 1261. The terms were, that he ſhould pay the

the Pope 8000 ounces of gold, and these dominions should never be annexed to the empire; the Pope being unwilling there should be any power in Italy greater than himself. Charles soon vanquished Mainfroy, and having put him and his children to death, he took possession of the kingdom. An attempt was afterwards made by Conradin, son of Conrade, to recover these dominions; but being defeated by Charles, in the year 1268, near the lake of Celano, and taken prisoner, he was, in the following year, by the Pope's advice, beheaded at Naples; with him ended the illustrious race of the Dukes of Suabia. When Charles asked the Pope what he should do with the prisoner, the answer was *Vita Conradini Mors Caroli, Mors Conradini Vita Caroli*; that is, the life of Conradin is the death of Charles, the death of Conradin is the life of Charles.—Hence came the prentensions of France upon Naples; she has, however, never got any thing by meddling in Italy.

Notwithstanding Lewis's former unfortunate expedition, he attempted, in the year 1270, the conquest of Tunis; but while he was before this place, a sickness broke out, which carried off himself and a great part of his army.

PHILIP III. *surnamed the Hardy*, ascended the Throne 1270, at the age of 25. He was surnamed the Hardy, because it is said, he

was

was not intimidated at ſeeing himſelf expoſed to a barbarous nation, after the death of his father Lewis.

In this reign the Sicilian Maſſacre was perpetratred, by which the French were at once rooted out of Sicily. It was thus occaſioned:—Some Frenchmen having raviſhed the wife of John Prochyta, of Salenam, he begged the aſſiſtance of Peter, King of Arragon, to drive the French, whoſe many outrages had rendered them deteſtable, out of Sicily. A conſpiracy being ſet on foot, it was countenanced by Pope Nicholas V. and by the Emperor of Conſtantinople, who were both jealous of Charles's power. The injured John, diſguiſed himſelf in the habit of a Monk, and went inceſſantly from one place to another, till the people were ſufficiently ſpirited up for his purpoſe; which, notwithſtanding it had been above three years in agitation, and ſo many were privy to it, was never diſcovered. It was at laſt agreed, that on Eaſter Monday, in the year 1282, at the toll of the bell for evening ſervice, there ſhould be a general maſſacre of the French; and the ſignal was ſo punctually and univerſally obſerved, that, in about two hours time, a moſt horrible ſlaughter was made, ſcarce any eſcaping. This being over, Peter, King of Arragon, took poſſeſſion of Sicily. The Pope, enraged at this, excommunicated Peter, and gave his kingdom of Arragon to Charles, the

ſecond

The Sicilian Massacre.

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ſecond ſon of Philip. This laſt ſet out with a powerful army; but he was not able to eſtabliſh his ſon in Arragon. Philip died in the year 1285, in his return from the expedition of Arragon, aged 40 years and ſome months.

PHILIP IV. *ſurnamed the Fair*, ſucceeded to the Crown in the year 1285, aged 17 years. This prince, upon ſome frivolous pretences, commenced war with the Engliſh, and took from them a great part of Guyenne: it was, however, by a treaty of peace, ſoon after reſtored. Being angry with the Count of Flanders, who, at the inſtigation of the Engliſh, had united with ſome other Lords againſt him, Philip invaded his country, and took many towns from him; but the Flemings, who were ſoon tired of their ill treatment, cut the French garriſons to pieces. An army was ſent againſt them by Philip, under the command of Robert, Count of Artois, which was defeated with the loſs of 20,000 men, in the year 1302, near Courtray. This defeat was, in ſome meaſure, owing to the inconſiderate haſte of the French cavalry, who rode into a ditch. The French had the advantage in an action about two years after, and cut off 25,000 of the enemy; yet, as the Flemings ſoon brought into the field an army of 60,000 men, the King of France was glad to make peace with, and leave them in their ancient

ancient ſtate. The King died the 29th of November, 1314, aged 46 years.

LEWIS X. *ſurnamed Hutin*, aſcended the Throne in the year 1314, at the age of 23 years. After a ſhort reign, in which nothing remarkable happened, he died in the year 1316. It was ſuſpected he died of poiſon.

PHILIP V. *ſurnamed the Long*, aſcended the Throne in the year 1316, aged 23 years. The daughter of Lewis the Xth, ſupported by her maternal uncle, the Duke of Burgundy, laid claim to the Crown; but it was, by virtue of the Salique law, determined in favour of Philip the Long, his brother. Philip died in the year 1322, aged 28 years.

CHARLES IV. *ſurnamed the Fair*, aſcended the Throne on the death of his brother, in 1322, aged 26 years. The Lombards and Italians were, on account of their extortions from the people in his time, expelled the kingdom. He commenced a war with England; but the two nations were ſoon reconciled by the interpoſition of Iſabella, his ſiſter, wife to Edward, King of England. He died in the year 1328, aged 33 years.

PHILIP VI. *ſurnamed of Valois*, came to the Crown in 1328; for, as neither of the ſons of Philip IV. left iſſue male, France was almoſt ruined by the long continuance of a civil war, on account of the ſucceſſion, the right to which was conteſted by Philip of Valois, a brother's ſon of Philip IV. and by Edward III.

III. of England, ſon to Iſabella, daughter to Philip IV. The ſtates of France, who were unwilling to be dependent on England, and ſtrongly ſolicited ſo to do by Robert, Count of Artois, declared for Philip. At firſt, Edward ſtifled his reſentment, and went in perſon to do homage to Philip, for the provinces which belonged to him in France: but, being irritated to the laſt degree at the treatment of Philip, who obliged him, at taking the oath of fealty, to lay aſide his Crown, Sceptre and Spurs, and being preſſed by his Engliſh ſubjects, not to give up tamely ſo well grounded a right, he ſoon declared war againſt France.

In the year 1328, the Flemings who had taken up arms againſt Philip, received ſuch a fatal overthrow in the battle of Mont-caſſel, that of 16,000 men very few eſcaped.

The war with England was carried on, a truce or two intervening, without much advantage on either ſide, until Edward landed in Normandy. After taking many places, and braving the French at the gates of Paris, he was marching through Picardy to Flanders; but being overtaken by Philip, a battle was fought at Creſſy, near Abbeville, in the year 1347. Some circumſtances were favourable to the Engliſh; namely, the French troops were fatigued by a long march on the day of battle; ſome Genoeſe foot retreating immediately, their bows being rendered uſe-

leſs

leſs by the rain, the Duke of Alençon ſuſpected treachery, and, by riding in amongſt them with his horſe, cauſed the firſt confuſion. The Engliſh had four or five large pieces of cannon, which, as they had not heard any thing of the kind before, ſtruck terror into the French. It was, however, a moſt glorious victory. The Engliſh, according to the account of the French hiſtorians, had no more than 24,000 men, but the French army conſiſted of near 100,000 men; above 30,000 of the latter were left upon the field. Amongſt the ſlain was John, King of Bohemia, who, being blind, had tied his horſe between the horſes of two friends; and being in this manner conducted into the thickeſt of the battle, they were all found dead together. A great ſlaughter was the next day made amongſt ſome troops, who, ignorant of what had happened, were coming to join the French army. After this, the Engliſh took Calais, notwithſtanding that Philip had, with an army of 150,000 men, attempted to relieve it.

Amidſt theſe misfortunes, Philip had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing the county of Dauphiny annexed by Humbert, its laſt Count, to the Crown, upon condition that the eldeſt ſon of France ſhould be, for the time to come, called Dauphin. This Count, who had before put himſelf under the protection of France againſt the Duke of Savoy, upon the death of his ſon, accidentally killed by his own hands, retired

retired into a monaſtery, and Philip took poſſeſſion of his county, in the year 1349.

In this reign, the tax on ſalt, called the Gabel, was impoſed, which, as it made the ſubjects pay dear for the water of the ſea, and rays of the ſun, gave univerſal diſguſt in France, and was the occaſion of Edward's calling Philip ironically the Author of the Salique law. Philip died in the year 1350, aged 57.

JOHN aſcended the Throne the 23d of June, 1340, aged 30 years. He was ſtill more unfortunate in his wars with England than his father. Prince Edward, who commanded in Guyenne, having penetrated, with only 12,000 men, a great way into France, and deſtroyed the country; he was met by John near Poitiers, in the year 1356. He offered to make all reaſonable ſatisfaction for the damage he had done; but John, imagining he was in his power, would liſten to no terms, and orders were inſtantly given to fall upon the Engliſh, without regarding their advantageous ſituation amongſt the hedges and vineyards. By the bravery, however, of the Prince, and the intrepidity of his men, the French army, conſiſting of 50,000 men, was entirely routed, 6000 being, according to their own hiſtorians, killed upon the ſpot, of which 1200 were gentlemen, and 50 of them were noblemen. The King and his youngeſt ſon were taken priſoners; the

three eldeſt ſaved themſelves by flying with their governor, before the action was over.

During the impriſonment of John, who was carried into England, France was reduced to a miſerable condition. The people, having been a long time oppreſſed, would not ſubmit to the Dauphin, who took upon him the adminiſtration of affairs; the peaſants paid no regard to the authority of the nobility, and the ſoldiers, being ill paid, lived by plunder. Charles, King of Navarre, took the advantage of this confuſed ſtate of things, to lay claim to the Crown. Matters were, however, accommodated with him.

At the ſame time, as the ſtates of France refuſed to accept the terms offered, the King of England, at the head of a powerful army, ravaged great part of France; but a treaty was at length concluded at Brittany, in the year 1360. By this it was agreed, that to what already belonged to the Engliſh in France, Poitou, Saintongue, Rochelle, le pais d'Aulnis, Perigorde, L'Angoumoies, Quercy, Limoſin, Bigorre and L'Agenois, with their ſovereignties, ſhould be added; that Edward ſhould keep Calais, and the counties of Oye, Guiſnes, and Pouthieu, and that 3,000,000 of livres ſhould be paid for the King's ranſom. John being in want of money, did after this a very diſhonourable thing to his daughter, whom he ſold in marriage to the Duke of Milan, for 600,000 crowns. The

duchy

duchy of Burgundy becoming vacant in his time, he gave it to his ſon Philip the Bold, from whom deſcended thoſe famous Dukes of Burgundy, whoſe territories came at laſt to the Houſe of Auſtria. John died in England, in the year 1364, aged 44 years.

CHARLES V. *ſurnamed the Wiſe*, aſcended to the Throne in the year 1364, aged 27 years. This Prince, having nothing in him of his grandfather's or father's raſhneſs, always avoided coming to a battle with the Engliſh, and endeavoured, by gaining time, to tire them out. Edward the Black Prince of England, having hurt his conſtitution, and drained his purſe, laid ſome taxes on his ſubjects in Guyenne. Complaint being made to the French Court, Charles, who was prepared for a war, and well knew the Prince's ill ſtate of health, ſummoned him to appear at Paris, pretending, that as hoſtilities had been committed by the Engliſh, contrary to the treaty of Brittany, the ſovereignty of Guyenne was forfeited. Upon receiving a diſdainful anſwer from the Prince, Charles declared war.

The Engliſh fleet being deſtroyed by that of Spain, off Rochelle, great part of what the Engliſh had gained by the laſt treaty was loſt before the ſuccours for the Black Prince, which were detained by contrary winds, could arrive in France. 30,000 men being afterwards landed at Calais, marched from

thence, ravaging the country as they went towards Guyenne; yet Charles would not hazard a battle, but contented himſelf with annoying them in their march. Whilſt the Pope was endeavouring a reconciliation, Prince Edward, his illneſs increaſing, left the army, and ſhortly after died in England. Charles took the advantage of his death to attack the Engliſh with five different armies, and was ſo ſucceſsful, that, in a ſhort time, nothing remained to England in France, but Calais, Bourdeaux, Bayonne and Cherburg. In gaining theſe advantages over the Engliſh, Bertrand de Gueſelin, Conſtable of France, had a great ſhare. In the year 1378, the Emperor paid a viſit to Charles at Paris, and made the Dauphin irrevocable Vicar of the Empire in Dauphiny; which, as the French ſay, was giving up all the right of the Emperors of Germany to this province and the kingdom of Arles. Charles died in the year 1380, aged 44 years.

Charles VI. ſucceeded to the Crown in 1380, at the age of 12 years and nine months. In the firſt year of his reign, affairs went on very indifferently in France. Charles exhauſted his father's treaſury in maintaining the rights of Lewis, Duke of Anjou, whom Jane, Queen of Naples, had adopted heir to that kingdom.

In the beginning of this reign, the Miniſtry promiſed to take off ſome heavy taxes; but, inſtead

inſtead of this, new ones were laid on, and ſwallowed up by favourites, which ſo enraged the people, that in Paris, and many other places, the inhabitants took up arms. A ſtop was put to theſe inſurrections by cutting off 40,000 of the rebels in Flanders, together with Artevelle, their General. The ill ſucceſs, however, of the war againſt England, which coſt great ſums, encreaſed the diſcontents of the people.

The King, whoſe conſtitution was much impaired by the debaucheries of his youth, as he was going on horſeback into Brittany, became quite mad. This was ſaid to be occaſioned in the following manner:—In the way, a tall black man *appeared to him, and ſaid, "Stop, King! whither would you go? you are betrayed!"*—Preſently, one of his attendants, overcome with ſleep, let his lance fall upon the helmet of another, who rode next before him; at which the King, imagining it to be a ſignal, was exceedingly frightened. Whether it was owing to this, or to the heat of the weather, it being in Auguſt, he loſt his ſenſes, and though he had ſome intervals, never came rightly to himſelf.

Charles being rendered incapable to govern, great diſputes aroſe concerning the Regency, betwixt his brother the Duke of Orleans, and Philip, Duke of Burgundy, his uncle. As the latter had had more ex-

perience, he was declared Regent; yet, though the Duke of Orleans failed in his attempt to get poſſeſſion of the capital, he had a large party. At the death of his father, in the year 1404, John, Duke of Burgundy, took poſſeſſion of the Regency.

The hatred between John and the Duke of Orleans being increaſed, the former, notwithſtanding a pretended reconciliation, cauſed the latter to be aſſaſſinated in the year 1407, as he was walking the ſtreets of Paris by night. This piece of villainy, inſtead of ſtrengthening his party, increaſed that of the ſon's, left by his rival, and the whole kingdom being divided into parties, murders, devaſtations, and all the miſeries of civil war, enſued.

Theſe inteſtine troubles, which at laſt ended in the ruin of the Burgundian party, gave the King of England an opportunity of landing an army in Normandy; but, after taking Harfleur, in the year 1415, their army, being much weakened by ſickneſs, were retiring to Calais.

In the way, they were met at Agincourt by a French army, which their own hiſtorians allow to be at leaſt four times the number of the Engliſh. Notwithſtanding this great inequality, and the ſickneſs which reigned amongſt the Engliſh, they fought ſo deſperately, that 6000 of the French were killed on the ſpot, and a great number taken priſoners,

ſoners, amongſt whom were many of the firſt rank. The Engliſh hiſtorians make the loſs of the French much greater; and indeed it ſeldom happens, that the hiſtorians of two nations at war, agree in their relations of things of this ſort; but, however that was, the Engliſh were not in a condition to puſh the advantage they had gained.

The government had been for ſome time ſhared by the Queen and the Conſtable of France; but her imprudent conduct having excited the King's jealouſy, ſhe was, by the advice of the Dauphin, baniſhed from Court; which ſo exaſperated her, that ſhe joined with the Duke of Burgundy againſt the Dauphin, her own ſon; and civil war raged again with freſh fury. An accommodation was afterwards propoſed with the Duke of Burgundy; but, in the ſecond meeting had for this purpoſe, the Dauphin cauſed him to be aſſaſſinated. This, inſtead of putting a ſtop at once, as the Dauphin hoped it would, to the diſorders of the ſtate, had a quite contrary effect; for it rendered him ſo deteſtable to the people in general, as to give the Queen an opportunity of excluding him from the ſucceſſion.

To do this effectually, peace was concluded with Henry V. of England; and it was agreed that Henry ſhould marry Catharine, daughter of Charles VI. that he ſhould have the Regency of France during the life of Charles;

and, after his death, the Crown of France ſhould be united to that of England. Each kingdom was, however, to be governed by its own laws. A day was alſo fixed for the Dauphin to appear at Paris, and anſwer for the murder of the Duke of Burgundy; in default of which, he was declared incapable of ſucceeding to the Crown, and baniſhed the kingdom. From this ſentence he appealed to God and his Sword, and ſet up his ſtandard at Poitiers; but only the provinces of Anjou, Poitou, Berry, Tours, Auvergne, and Languedoc, ſided with him. It happened, however, luckily for him, that Henry died ſhortly after, in the meridian of his glory; and the death of Charles, his father, whoſe life had long occaſioned a great expence to France, followed in the ſame year, 1422, aged 54 years.

CHARLES VII. *ſurnamed the Victorious*, aſcended the Throne in the year 1422, aged 20 years. He had, however, great difficulties to ſurmount; for the Duke of Bedford, appointed Regent of France, having cauſed Henry VI. King of England, to be proclaimed at Paris, endeavoured, in conjunction with the Dukes of Burgundy and Brittany, to drive Charles out of the kingdom. His forces were ſeveral times beat; and, being abandoned by many cities at once, he was, in deriſion, from its being his uſual reſidence, called King of Bourges. He was at laſt reduced

duced to the greateſt neceſſity, being ſcarce able to keep an open table; and, had it not been for the miſunderſtanding which at this time aroſe betwixt the Engliſh and the Duke of Burgundy, his affairs muſt have been entirely ruined.

The occaſion was this:—Jaquiline, Counteſs of Hainault, after being divorced from John, Duke of Brabant, couſin to the Duke of Burgundy, had married to the Duke of Glouceſter, brother to Henry V. when the Duke of Burgundy joined with John in his reſentment againſt the Duke of Glouceſter. Great pains were taken by the Duke of Bedford, to reconcile theſe two; but it was in vain; for the Burgundian had, at the bottom, an averſion to the Engliſh; and this was lately encreaſed by their refuſing to let the town of Orleans be put into his hands.—While the Engliſh were before this place, which was reduced to the laſt extremity, the French attacked a convoy going to their camp. Being worſted in this engagement, which has always been called, perhaps from ſome herrings carried by the convoy, the battle of the herrings, Charles, deſpairing of ſucceſs, was going to retire into Dauphiny, when an unlooked-for bleſſing, happened to him.

A damſel of Arc, in Lorraine, named Joan, being introduced to him, ſhe told Charles ſhe had a commiſſion from God to relieve Or-

ſeans, and to ſee him crowned at Rheims.—As both theſe predictions came to paſs, the Engliſh were diſmayed, and the French began to take courage. This maid, who afterwards did wonders, was taken priſoner at the ſiege of Compeigne, and, being delivered to the Engliſh, was, to their great diſgrace, burnt as a witch, at Roan, in the year 1431.

For the ſake of re-eſtabliſhing their affairs, the Engliſh cauſed Henry VI. to come over to France; and he was crowned at Paris. They alſo, to keep him more firm to their intereſt, gave the counties of Brie and Champaigne to the Duke of Burgundy; but all would not do. After the war had continued ſome time longer, without any thing conſiderable being done on either ſide, negociations for a peace, were, at the ſolicitations of the Pope, ſet on foot at Arras; but, as the Engliſh would abate nothing of their pretenſions, a treaty was concluded in the year 1435, betwixt Charles and the Duke of Burgundy, which was very much to the advantage of the latter. Soon after, the Engliſh had the misfortune to loſe the Duke of Bedford, who had all along conducted their affairs with great prudence and bravery; which was followed with the ſubmiſſion of many cities, and, amongſt the reſt, of Paris to Charles.

France, already quite exhauſted by war, was afterwards viſited with famine; and to this

this ſucceeded a plague; which cauſed ſo great deſolation, that wolves came into the ſuburbs of Paris, and devoured young children.

The ancient valour of the Engliſh being leſſened, their troops in France were but few; and theſe, being ill paid, lived by plunder. England was, beſides, much diſturbed by inteſtine troubles; and it had ſuffered greatly in two battles with the Scotch. Charles, judging this conjuncture favourable, under a pretence that the Engliſh had broke the truce, attacked them in the year 1449, with great vigour, and, in about three months time, drove them quite out of Normandy.—In the next year, he became maſter of all Guyenne, except Bayonne; which being taken in the year 1451, nothing remained to the Engliſh in France, except Calais and the county of Guiſnes. Thus the kingdom of France, great part of which had been above 300 years ſubject to England, was almoſt all united under Charles. The joy upon this occaſion was decreaſed by the quarrel betwixt Charles and his ſon, who kept away from Court for the ſpace of 13 years. Charles died in the year 1461, aged 58 years.

LEWIS XI. came to the Throne in the year 1461, aged 39 years He was a cunning, reſolute, and cruel Prince. His firſt ſtep was to remove all the Miniſters who would not come into his meaſures: the conſequences of which being foreſeen, a league

was entered into by many of the principal nobility, for preſerving the liberties of the people againſt the encroachments of the prerogative. Into this, which was called the league for the public good, the Dukes of Burgundy and Brittany entered; and the former, having entered France with a powerful army, came to an engagement with Lewis, near Mount l'Heri. No great advantage was gained on either ſide; yet, as the King retired with his troops in the night following, the Duke claimed the victory; and he was encouraged to form too great deſigns, which, in the end, coſt him his life.

To extricate himſelf from theſe difficulties, Lewis took off ſome taxes, and amuſed the people with fair promiſes; all which, as ſoon as the danger was over, he forgot. Having bought off ſome of the heads of the league, he found means to ſow diſcord amongſt the reſt, and at laſt to diſſolve it quite. Still the Duke of Burgundy held it out, and having, in the year 1468, ſurrounded him at Peronne, Lewis was very near being taken priſoner.—This troubleſome enemy, being, in the year 1477, killed by the Swiſs before Nancy, Lewis ſeized his dominions; and it was thought he would, by marriage, have annexed them to the French Crown. His enmity, however, to the Burgundian family was ſuch, that he rather choſe to ruin it entirely. The latter part of the King's life was quite miſerable

ſerable. He was continually tormented with the fear of death. He died in the year 1483, aged 60 years.

CHARLES VIII. ſucceeded to the Crown, in the year 1483, aged 13 years and two months. Henry VII. of England, having laid ſiege to Boulogne, he was prevailed upon, by a ſum of money, to retire. Henry was the more willing to do this, becauſe Maximilian, whom Charles had affronted, not only in robbing him of his miſtreſs, but alſo in ſending back his ſiſter Margaret, to whom he was engaged, did not join with him as he had promiſed. As France was now in a flouriſhing condition, Charles, under a pretence that the right of the houſe of Anjou to Naples, which was, by the will of the laſt Duke, given to Lewis XI. devolved upon him, reſolved to attack this kingdom. He was encouraged to do this by Lewis Sforca, ſurnamed the Moor, Duke of Milan; which duchy he had unjuſtly taken from his nephew, John Galeace, to whom he was Governor.—The Moor hoped by this to divert the reſentment of Ferdinand, King of Naples, for this ill treatment of Galeace, who was, by marriage, nearly allied to Ferdinand.

In the year 1494, Charles ſet out for Italy; and, being arrived at Rome, was declared by the Pope, who durſt not refuſe it, King of Naples.

This acquisition being looked upon with jealous eyes by the other powers of Europe, an alliance was entered into by the Emperor, the Pope, Ferdinand King of Castile, the Duke of Milan, and the republic of Venice, for driving the French out of Italy. Upon which, Charles, fearing his retreat might be cut off, made the best of his way for France, without leaving a sufficient number of troops for the defence of Naples. In their way, the French had an engagement with, and defeated, the allied army, near the Taro. They, however, continued their route with great diligence. As Charles had taken so little care for the preservation of Naples, this kingdom was, to his great disgrace, re-conquered within the space of a year; and very few of the French left there, had the happiness to return home. In the year 1498, Charles died, aged 27 years, without leaving any issue.

LEWIS XII. *surnamed the Father of his People*, ascended the Throne in the year 1498, aged 36 years. He was grandson of Lewis, Duke of Orleans, and Mary of Cleves. He married the late King's widow, and, soon after his accession, set up a claim to Milan, founded on the right of Valentina, his grandmother, and took possession of it without shedding a drop of blood, Lewis, the Moor, flying with his family into Germany.

Flushed with this success, Lewis resolved to attempt the conquest of Naples; and the better

better to ſucceed, entered into an agreement with Ferdinand, the Catholic, for dividing this kingdom betwixt them. This conqueſt coſt very little trouble; for, in the year 1501, Frederick, King of Naples, ſubmitted to Lewis, and was ſupported in France afterwards, with a penſion of 30,000 crowns.

As the two nations could not agree about ſettling their reſpective ſhares, it came to blows, in which the French had, at firſt, the advantage; but, by the brave conduct of Gonſalvo, of Corduba, the Spaniſh General, they were in a ſhort time driven out of the kingdom. To make amends for this loſs, Lewis, in the next campaign, ſet five armies on foot; yet, finding he could gain no advantage, he was glad to make peace with Ferdinand.

In the year 1507, the city of Genoa, at that time belonging to the Duchy of Milan, revolted; but it was ſoon reduced to obedience. A war was not long after commenced againſt the Venetians, whoſe encroachments on all their neighbours could no longer be ſupported. In the year 1510, the Pope, Ferdinand, Henry VIII. of England, and the Swiſs, united with Venice againſt France. The two firſt were grown jealous of Lewis's power in Italy; Henry being juſt come to the Throne, had a mind to diſtinguiſh himſelf, and the Swiſs were angry becauſe their ſubſidy was not paid.

In this war, the French General, Gaſton de Foix, behaved extremely well. Having relieved Bologna, he obtained a victory over the Venetians in the Breſſan, and cut in pieces above 8000 of them. He afterwards routed the confederate army near Ravenna; but, by purſuing too far, he was ſlain. The death of this hero was a fatal ſtroke to the French, who ſoon left all in Italy; and Maximilian, ſon of Lewis the Moor, was reſtored by the Swiſs to Milan. As Lewis ſet his heart much on Milan, he made peace with the Venetians, and had, in the year 1512, regained moſt of it; but, by the coming up of ſome Swiſs ſuccours, the ſiege of Novarra, where Maximilian had ſhut himſelf up, was raiſed, and the French were once more forced to evacuate this duchy. In the mean time, France was attacked by the Emperor, England, and the Swiſs; and if Henry of England had joined the Swiſs, Lewis would, in all probability, have been ruined; but, inſtead of advancing into the heart of the kingdom, Henry amuſed himſelf with the ſiege of Terouane; the French, endeavouring to relieve it, were defeated near Guinegaſt. This battle, in which the French uſed their ſpurs more than their ſwords, has been always called *the battle of the ſpurs*. Henry, after having taken Tournay, he went back to England; and the Duke of Tremouille, by promiſing that their arrears ſhould be paid, that the Council of Piſa

ſhould

ſhould be broke up, and that all pretenſions to the Milaneſe ſhould be waved, prevailed on the Swiſs to raiſe the ſiege of Dijon. The excuſe for not fulfilling theſe engagements, was, that they were made without the King's order; it would, however, have coſt the hoſtages left by the Duke dear, if the Swiſs had not preferred the large ſums offered them to their blood. In the next year, Lewis concluded a treaty with England, and marr'ed Mary, Henry's ſiſter. Lewis, who was ſo beloved by his ſubjects, as to be called *the father of his people*, died in the year 1515, aged 53 years.

FRANCIS I. *ſurnamed the Patron of Learning*, ſucceeded to the Crown, 1ſt of January, in the year 1515, aged 21 years — He was Count D'Angouleme, and Duke de Valois, great grandſon of Lewis, Duke of Orleans, and Valentine of Milan. Having confirmed the alliance with the Engliſh, and republic of Venice, and entered into one with Charles, King of Spain, he made an incurſion into Italy, and. meeting with little reſiſtance, became maſter of Genoa, and a great part of Milan. Being ſoon after unexpectedly attacked in his camp, at Marignan, by the Swiſs, both ſides fought deſperately, and the Swiſs were repulſed with the loſs of 10,000 men. This victory was followed with the ſurrender of Maximilian, and his whole duchy, to Francis, who allowed him a yearly

penſion of 30,000 ducats; and the Swiſs, finding that Francis was willing to pay their ſubſidy, ſhortly after entered into an alliance with him.

Upon the death of the Emperor Maximilian, in the next year, Francis uſed his utmoſt endeavours to obtain the Imperial dignity. The Archduke Charles being preferred to him, his next care was to guard againſt the deſigns of this enterpriſing Prince; and his jealouſy of Charles ſoon ſhewed itſelf by declaring war. As Spain was diſturbed by domeſtic feuds, he found no great difficulty in conquering Navarre; but, in the year 1521, the Spaniards drove the French out of Navarre.

In Italy, the French were defeated by the Germans, near Bicoca; and, having abandoned Milan, Francis Sforca was, by the Emperor and the Pope, eſtabliſhed there. Fontarabia, in Flanders, was retaken likewiſe in this campaign, for the delivering up of which Charles had before offered to make peace. But this ill ſucceſs of the French was, in a great meaſure, owing to Charles, Duke of Bourbon, going into the Emperor's ſervice.

His reaſon was ſuppoſed to be the ill uſage he met with from the Queen-mother, by whom a ſuit was commenced for taking away his duchy of Bourbon, which, as he had no hopes of ſucceeding againſt ſo powerful a rival,

rival, determined him to enter into an alliance with the Emperor, and King of England. It was agreed by them, that France ſhould be divided betwixt the two laſt, and that the Duke of Bourbon, who was to marry the Emperor's ſiſter, ſhould have the kingdom of Arles. While a deſcent was made on Picardy by the Engliſh, the Duke of Bourbon, in the year 1524, repulſed, with great loſs, a French army in the Milaneſe, which was commanded by the Admiral Bonnevet. Francis being, in the next campaign, perſuaded by Bonnevet to take the command on the ſide of Italy in perſon, he was the more willing to do it, becauſe Charles had already entered Provence, and laid ſiege to Marſeilles. Being arrived in Italy, Francis ſat down before Pavia; but, after his troops had for two months been fatigued with the ſiege of this place, the Duke of Bourbon, who at firſt retired, having received a conſiderable reinforcement, fell upon him in his camp, and, after routing his army, made him priſoner.

As the cloſe confinement of Francis, who was carried into Spain, threw him into a dangerous diſtemper, his Miniſters, fearing he would die a priſoner, conſented at laſt to the terms of ranſom propoſed by Spain.

About this time, a confederacy was entered into by England and the ſtates of Italy, for checking the power of Charles, which ſeemed

ſeemed to threaten the liberties of Europe.—The conditions of this releaſe being very diſhonourable, Francis, notwithſtanding he had given his word to return if they were not performed, declared them not binding, becauſe they were extorted from him while he was a priſoner; and that, as they were moreover contrary to his coronation oath, it was out of his power to perform them. Francis ſoon after allied himſelf to England and the ſtates of Italy; and, as terms of peace could not be agreed upon, war was declared by all theſe againſt the Emperor. Being taxed by Charles with having broken his word, Francis gave him the lie in plain terms, and ſent him a challenge. This behaviour was, however, looked upon as quite unbecoming a Prince.

The army of France, which was commanded by Odet de Foix, Baron of Lautrec, after making great progreſs in the Milaneſe, penetrated into Naples, and laid ſiege to the capital: But a ſtop was put to this ſucceſs by the imprudence of Francis, who refuſed to beſtow the government of Genoa on Admiral Andrea Doria, a native, and to reſtore the town of Savona to this republic. Doria went over to the party of Charles, and had a great ſhare in preſerving the communication with Naples by ſea. During the long ſiege of this town, a plague broke out in the French army, which having carried off great numbers, with their

their General, the reſt were made priſoners.

This was followed with the loſs of all in Milan; and that great man, Doria, acquired immortal glory, by preſerving the liberty of his country, when it was in his power to take upon himſelf the ſovereign authority.

At length, Francis being deſirous that his children, left as hoſtages, ſhould have their liberty, a treaty was, in the year 1529, concluded at Cambray, by which he agreed to pay a large ſum for the ranſom of his ſons, to give up the ſovereignty of Artois and Flanders to Charles, and to renounce all pretenſions to Italy. Francis died in the year 1547, aged 52 years.

HENRY II. aſcended the Throne, the 31ſt of March, 1547, at 29 years of age.—This Prince, ſoon after his acceſſion, took poſſeſſion of the Marquiſate of Salucca, which fell to him by the death of Gabriel, the laſt Marquis, without heirs. In the year 1549, he ſeverely puniſhed the inhabitants of Bourdeaux, who had revolted, and, in the next year, Boulogn was bought of the Engliſh for a ſum of money. As the Emperor was engaged with the Turks with his proteſtant ſubjects in Germany, Henry, in the year 1551, reſolved to break with him. Having concluded an alliance with Maurice, Elector of Saxony, he, in the year 1552, marched an army towards the Rhine, which, in its way,

ſurpriſed

ſurpriſed Metz, Toul, and Verdun, and was very near doing the ſame at Straſburgh; but a ſeparate peace being made by Maurice with the Emperor, and Henry being requeſted by ſome German Princes, to go no further into the Empire, he retired. Henry, in his return, took ſeveral places in Luxemburgh. Metz being after this beſieged by Charles, with an army of 100,000 men, the Duke of Guiſe defended it ſo bravely, that, after great loſs, he gave over the ſiege. In revenge for this diſappointment, he threw himſelf into the county Artois, and, having taken Terouanne, entirely demoliſhed it. Heſden had the ſame fate, and the garriſons of both places were put to the ſword. In Italy, the French took Sienne, and ſome places in the iſland of Corſica; but, being defeated in the year 1555, near Marciano, they abandoned the former.

Charles, who, in the year 1556, reſigned the Spaniſh crown, being deſirous that the beginning of his ſon's reign ſhould be peaceable, had agreed upon a ſuſpenſion of arms; but this was ſcarce ſigned before hoſtilities were, at the inſtigation of Pope Paul VI. recommenced. The Duke of Guiſe was ſent into Italy, with a powerful army, but did nothing remarkable. Philip, having engaged England on his ſide, beſieged St. Quintin, with an army of 50,000 men. The Conſtable, Montmorency, attempted to relieve this

this place; but he was entirely defeated. If this victorious army had marched directly towards Paris, France would have been in a bad condition; but Philip, ſuſpecting that the Duke of Savoy, his ally, might, for the ſake of obtaining good terms, reconcile himſelf to France, would not ſuffer it to advance into the country. After taking St. Quintin by ſtorm, the reſt of the campaign was waſted in taking Han, Chatelet and Noyon. The French having by theſe means time to re-eſtabliſh their affairs, Thionville, Calais, and ſome other places, were afterwards taken from the Engliſh, by the Duke of Guiſe. In the year 1559, the French army, under Marſhal de Termes, was beat near Gravelins; and, with a view to the annexing of Scotland to the crown of France, the Dauphin was married to Mary, Queen of Scots; but, there being no iſſue of this marriage, the ſcheme failed. In the year 1559, Henry, in tilting with the Earl of Montgomery, received a wound in his eye, which inſtantly took away his ſenſes and ſpeech, and carried him off, at the end of eleven days.

FRANCIS II. aſcended the Throne in the year 1559, at 16 years of age. Soon after his acceſſion, the civil wars, by which France was ſo long ravaged, were commenced. In order to underſtand the origin of theſe aright, it is neceſſary to look back.

The

The Houſe of Bourbon, which, next to the reigning family of Valois, had the beſt right to the Crown, had, for a long time, encreaſed ſo much in riches and power, as to make ſome former Kings jealous. Francis I. did, indeed, in the beginning of his reign, make Charles, Duke of Bourbon, Conſtable of France, and Prime Miniſter; but the maxim of keeping this Houſe under, which his predeceſſor had followed ſoon prevailed.

This being perceived, Charles went into the Emperor's ſervice; and he it was who commanded the Imperial army at the battle of Pavia, where Francis was made priſoner. After many ſignal ſervices, he was ſlain at the ſtorming of Rome, in the year 1527. The reſt of the Bourbon family, were, from that time, looked upon with an evil eye; and the Houſe of Guiſe, and Montmorency, were careſſed by Francis. The firſt of theſe, which had for its Chief, Claude, Duke of Guiſe, was a branch of the Houſe of Lorrain; the other, one of the moſt ancient families of France, was headed by Annas Montmorency, Conſtable of France. Towards the cloſe of that reign, both theſe falling into diſgrace, were baniſhed the Court; and it is ſaid, that Francis, upon his death bed, adviſed his ſon to employ neither of them, repreſenting to him, that it was dangerous to have Miniſters of ſuch abilities and intereſt. Notwithſtanding this advice, Annas of Montmorency, and

Francis,

Francis, Duke of Guiſe, were both received into favour; but a jealouſy ſoon aroſe betwixt them; for the former valued himſelf upon his political capacity, and the latter piqued himſelf upon his military abilities.—The Duke of Guiſe, who had always been popular, grew more ſo, by defending Mety againſt Charles, and taking Calais from the Engliſh. On the contrary, Montmorency was much blamed for loſing the battle of St. Quintin; and he was looked upon to be principally concerned in adviſing the diſhonourable peace.

The Guiſes grew more conſiderable by the marriage of Francis to Mary, Queen of Scots, their ſiſter's daughter; and, at length, every thing in France was directed by the Duke, and the Cardinal, his brother. This not only mortified Montmorency, but the two brothers of the Bourbon family; Anthony, King of Navarre, and the Prince of Conde, would not brook it. Anthony, indeed, being of an eaſy diſpoſition, had nothing more in view than to recover his kingdom of Navarre, and, in the mean time, was contented with the revenue he received from Bearn; but the Prince of Conde was ambitious, and ſo poor withal, that he could not live up to his high rank, without ſome conſiderable employment. Beſides this, the Admiral Coligny, an artful, proud man, and his brother D'Andelot, who was of a bold, enterpriſing temper,

temper, were continually inciting the Prince of Conde to aſſert the ſuperiority of his family. This was the ſituation of affairs when Francis II. who was only 16 years of age, and by reaſon of his incapacity, and ill ſtate of health, wholly unfit to govern, came to the Crown.

While the heads of the Bourbon and Guiſe families contended for the Regency, the Queen-mother, Catharine de Medicis, by craftily fomenting their quarrel, contrived to get it into her own hands. As the Guiſes were her favourites, ſhe gave the command of the army to the Duke; and the Cardinal had the direction of the finances. The Conſtable, Montmorency, under pretence that his great age wanted repoſe, was deſired to retire from Court; and, to get him out of the way, the Prince of Conde was ſent Ambaſſador to the Spaniſh Court. Seeing themſelves thus excluded from all ſhare of the government, it was reſolved, at a meeting held to deliberate on what meaſures were fitteſt to be taken, that the King of Navare ſhould, by cajoling the Court, endeavour to procure their advancement. This was tried; but, after being many times deceived with vain hopes, he gave it over.

Still the Prince of Conde was determined to puſh his fortune; and, having no great intereſt, he, by the advice of Coligny, joined himſelf with the Hugonots, by which name

all

all of the reformed religion in France were called. Theſe people, at this time under a ſevere perſecution, mortally hated the Guiſes, whom they looked upon to be the authors of it, and readily embraced him for a leader. It was agreed, that the Hugonots, being aſſembled ſecretly, ſome of them ſhould demand, at Court, the free exerciſe of religion; which being refuſed, the reſt were to go inſtantly in a body, and, after murdering the Guiſes, force the King to confer the Regency on the Prince of Conde. A gentleman, named Renaudie, took upon himſelf the execution of this deſign; but, as it was deferred on account of the Court's removal to Blais, and from thence to Amboiſe, it took air; and above 1200 Hugonots were ſeized and put to death. The Prince of Conde was confined and ſentenced to die; but, luckily for him, the ſudden death of Francis, in the year 1560, entirely changed the face of affairs.

CHARLES IX. brother to Francis II. came to the Crown in the year 1560, aged only 11 years. The Queen-mother thought herſelf ſecure of the Regency, and eſpecially ſo long as ſhe could keep the Houſes of Bourbon and Guiſe embroiled. In order, therefore, to prevent the ruin of the Prince of Conde's party, ſhe pretended to have no diſlike to the reformed religion, and rather encouraged it at Court; but Montmorency, Guiſe,

Guiſe, and the Marſhal St. Andre, adhered to their purpoſe of exterminating it, and the King of Navarre was brought over to their party.

There was afterwards a conference at Poiſſy, betwixt divers of both religions; and an edict was, in January, 1592, publiſhed for the preſervation of the reformed religion, which was called the Edict of January. This ſo incenſed the Guiſe party, that ſome of them entered the village of Vaſſy, and, having firſt diſturbed the proteſtants in the exerciſe of their religion, put three-ſcore of them to death. From this time, hoſtilities were committed on both ſides; but, as it does not ſuit with our purpoſe to give a circumſtantial detail of the many battles and ſkirmiſhes, or of the rage and cruelty exerciſed on both ſides, we ſhall only give a brief account of the principal events in theſe civil wars.

In the firſt war, in 1562, the King of Navarre died of a wound received at the ſiege of Rouen. A battle being fought near Dreux, the Prince of Conde had at firſt the advantage; but his men falling to plundering too ſoon, they were repulſed, and he was taken priſoner. In this action, the Marſhal St. Andre was killed upon the ſpot, and about 4000 of each party were left upon the field. The Duke of Guiſe was, ſoon after, treacherouſly murdered at the ſiege of Or-

leans, by one Poltrot, at the inſtigation, as it was ſuppoſed, of Coligny.

In the next year, a peace was made; yet, notwithſtanding the ſhort continuance of this war, it is computed, that at leaſt 50,000 of the Hugonots were killed; and both parties had ſuffered ſo much, that the Queen could now manage either.

In the year 1567, the Queen Regent had an interview with the Duke d'Alva, at Bayonne, in which the deſtruction of the Hugonots was ſuppoſed to be reſolved upon. This apprehenſion, with the perſecution immediately ſet on foot with great warmth againſt them, determined the Hugonots to renew hoſtilities. Annas of Montmorency being, in this ſecond war, mortally wounded at the battle of St. Denis, he ſaid to a Monk, who was impertinent in his laſt moments, "Let me alone: I have not lived four-ſcore "years, without learning to die in a quarter "of an hour." The proteſtants, who were very inferior in number, got a great reputation by this victory; and the city of Rochelle, which, for 60 years afterwards ſerved for a retreat, declared for them.

In the year 1568, a peace was ſigned; but, as neither party were ſatisfied with the conditions, the war broke out again in the ſame year. The prince of Conde being killed by a muſket-ſhot, at the battle of Jarnac, in the year 1569, Henry, King of Navarre, the ſon

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of Anthony, who ſucceeded afterwards to the French Crown, was pitched upon by the Proteſtants for their Chief; but the Admiral Coligny had, in fact, the whole direction of their affairs. The latter failed in his attempt againſt Poitiers, in defence of which the young Duke of Guiſe gave the firſt proofs of his bravery, and loſt 9000 men in the action near Moncoutour. His reputation did not, however, ſuffer by theſe miſcarriages; and, being ſupplied with money from the Queen of England, and troops from the Elector Palatine, he ſoon after aſſembled a great army.

Upon his advancing, in the year 1570, towards Paris, a very advantageous peace for the Hugonots was concluded, the towns of Rochelle, Montauban, Cognac, and la Charitie, being given up to them; but the deſign of the Court in this, was, that as the Proteſtants could not be ſubdued by force, they might thereby be lulled into a dangerous ſecurity.

With a view to this, they were flattered with great hopes, and the Admiral Coligny, now much careſſed at Court, was often conſulted concerning an intended expedition againſt the Spaniards in the Netherlands. A marriage was next year concluded, betwixt Henry of Navarre, and the French King's ſiſter, to the celebration of which, all the moſt conſiderable perſons amongſt the Proteſtants were

were invited, that their throats might be more conveniently cut altogether at Paris. As the Admiral was going home one night, from Court, he was wounded in the arm by ſome ruffians, hired by the Duke of Guiſe to ſhoot him. This was followed with an agreement, that, on the 24th of Auguſt, at the ringing of bells, for the firſt prayers in the morning, the Hugonots ſhould be all maſſacred; and the Duke de Guiſe took upon himſelf the execution of it. The Admiral, confined to his bed by his wounds, was the firſt who fell a ſacrifice; and the ſlaughter continued for ſeven days, with the moſt unheard-of cruelty. The example ſet at Paris, being followed in many other cities, above 30,000 Proteſtants were maſſacred, and the King of Navarre, with the young Prince of Conde, were compelled to abjure the reformed religion. This horrid buſineſs, which is commonly called *the Wedding at Paris*, has been ſcandalouſly repreſented, by Gabriel Naude, as a maſterpiece of policy.

Their conſternation being a little over, the war was recommenced, with great animoſity, by the Hugonots. On this fourth war, the royal army beſieged Rochelle; but, after being eight months, and loſing 12,000 men before it, the Duke of Anjou, who commanded, took the opportunity of his being elected King of Poland, to raiſe the ſiege with

with honour, and peace was, in the year 1573, again concluded.

In the next year, the war was re-kindled; and a third faction being formed in France, who called themſelves the Political Party, theſe proteſted, that, without any regard to religion, they only meant the good of the public, the excluſion of the Queen from the Regency, and the baniſhment of the Guiſes and all Italians from the kingdom. At the head of this party was the Houſe of Montmorency, which, though it firſt propoſed nothing but its own aggrandiſement, had afterwards a great ſhare in the advancement of Henry to the Throne. In the ſame year, while all theſe diviſions were at the height, Charles died without heirs, in the year 1574, aged 24.

HENRY III. who was already King of Poland, aſcended the Throne in the year 1573, aged 23 years. Having taken poſſeſſion of the Crown, he by no means anſwered the expectations of the people; for, abandoning himſelf to idleneſs and ſenſuality, the adminiſtration was ſtill in the hands of the Queen-mother, and ſome favourites. In the mean time, the ſtrength of the Hugonots was greatly encreaſed by an army from Germany, under the Prince of Conde, and John Caſimar, Count Palentine; the Duke of Alençon, brother to the King, came alſo over to

to them; and the King of Navarre made his eſcape from priſon. All theſe conſiderations made it neceſſary for the party to negociate a peace with them, upon more advantageous terms than any of the former. About the ſame time, another party, called the *Union*, or *League*, was ſet on foot by the Duke of Guiſe, who, finding himſelf hated by the King, but in great eſteem among the prieſts and people, had a mind to ſet up for himſelf. He was, beſides, encouraged by the contempt the King's management had brought him into; and, pretending to be deſcended from Charlemain, he inſiſted on having a better right to the Crown than Henry, whoſe predeceſſor, Hugh Capet, had unjuſtly excluded his family. Theſe were the real reaſons for this league; but the pretended ones were, the defence of the Catholic religion, the eſtabliſhment of Henry on the Throne, and the maintenance of public liberty; and all who entered into it, took a ſolemn oath, to be in all things obedient to the heads of it. The King, who did not ſee to the bottom of this affair, hoping that the Hugonots might be more eaſily ruined, ſigned it at the aſſembly of Blois, in the year 1577, and declared himſelf its head.

A ſixth war was immediately commenced againſt the Hugonots; but, notwithſtanding their affairs were in a bad ſtate, nothing conſiderable happened, and peace was concluded

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in the ſame year. After this peace, the King returned to his luxurious way of living; to ſupport the expence of which, new taxes were laid on the ſubjects, which, with the inſolence of his favourites, increaſed the people's hatred to him, and heightened their eſteem for the Duke of Guiſe.

In 1579, the civil war again broke out, and another in the year 1585, both of them to the diſadvantage of the Proteſtants, through the abilities of the Duke of Guiſe. The King thought him now ſo dangerous, that, after inviting him in a friendly manner to Court, both he and his brother the Cardinal, were, by his Majeſty's orders, and in a manner under his eye, baſely aſſaſſinated in 1588. The leaguers, upon this, declared that Henry had forfeited his Crown, and was an enemy to religion. This obliged him to throw himſelf into the arms of the Proteſtants: but, while he was beſieging Paris, where the leaguers had their greateſt force, he was, in his turn, aſſaſſinated by one Clement, a young enthuſiaſtic Monk, in 1589. In Henry III. ended the line of Valois.

Death of the Duke of Guiſe.

Remarkable Occurrences during the Reign of the Race of VALOIS, *&c.*

1060. Cruſades came into vogue about this period.

1244.

Death of the Duke of Guise

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1244 Jeruſalem ſacked and taken by the Choraſmains.

1270. The Sicilian maſſacre.

1347. The battle of Creſſy.

1356. The battle of Poitiers.

1415. The battle of Agincourt.

1431. The Maid of Orleans burnt for witchcraft.

1525. Francis, King of France, made a priſoner in Spain.

1459. One thouſand two hundred Hugonots ſeized and maſſacred.

1570. Upwards of 30,000 proteſtants maſſacred in France.

1588. The Duke of Guiſe and his brother murdered.

THE BOURBON LINE.

HENRY IV.

It was a happy circumſtance for France, that its throne was now filled by Henry IV. who well knew how to govern it, and to repair all its misfortunes. He was poſſeſſed of a great ſoul, a fine genius, an admirable judgment, formed by a maſculine and plain education; uſed to the fatigues of war, tried by misfortunes, which teach kings to know that they are men; of the age of thirty-ſix, when the mind and body are at their higheſt prime; full

full of frankneſs and readineſs of ſpeech, of generoſity to his friends, and affection to his people; too ſuſceptible of the weakneſſes of love, but preferring glory and public good to his pleaſures: a moderate calviniſt without obſtinacy, diſpoſed to ſupport the religion of the kingdom, and embrace the ſame, when he ſhould be convinced that it was the true one. However, the grearter part of France refuſed to acknowledge him. Vendoſme, the the chief branch of the houſe of Bourbon, a deſcendant from Robert, couſin to Clement V. ſon of St. Lewis, though he was related to the late king only in the twenty-ſecond degree, aſſured himſelf of the crown. There was nothing againſt Henry but his religion, an almoſt inſurmountable barrier in a time of fanaticiſm and revolt. The Duke of Epernon, and other lords and gentlemen of the army, retired at once, under pretence that their conſciences would not permit them to ſerve an heretical prince. Several remained faithful, on condition that it ſhould be carried by the judgment of a council. The Duke of Mayenne, however, whether from moderation or policy, would not give him the title of King; but gave it to the old Cardinal of Bourbon, whom they afterwards proclaimed under the name of Charles X.

At the beginning of the ſiege of Paris, the royal army was 30,000 ſtrong; but it every day very conſiderably diminiſhed. Frequent deſertions,

deſertions, and the retreat of a crowd of officers who demanded their diſmiſſion: the want of money, ſcruples of the Catholics, the hatred of the Hugonots, all contributed to weaken them. The King therefore raiſed the ſiege, and retired towards Dieppe, having no more left than five or ſix thouſand men. It was deliberated in council, whether he ſhould go into England or not, ſo much had the leaguers the ſuperiority. Mayenne purſued him with an army three or four times more numerous than his own, and conſidered the King's cauſe as totally loſt; but Henry was not eaſily to be terrified. The battle of Arques confounded the hopes of the rebels, in which they were defeated by the King's little army. The loſs of this battle was attributed to Mayenne, who was too ſlow in his operations, loaded by the great weight of his own body, and who loſt too much time in bed and at table.

The King, after this victory, having received a reinforcement of 4000 Engliſh, carried terror to the gates of Paris, where a falſe report of his defeat had been ſpread. He took five boroughs ſword in hand; and, if cannon had not timely arrived at Paris, the city would have been ravaged; the Dukes of Mayenne and Namours re-entered the city juſt in time to ſave it.

Mayenne then marched againſt the King, who beſieged Dreux and Normandy, and

who immediately raiſed the ſiege in order to fight him; when, notwithſtanding the Duke's advantage and number, he was again defeated. This famous battle did great honour to the bravery and ſkill of Henry, and his clemency to the vanquiſhed raiſed the glory of his triumph: "Save the French!" cried he, as he purſued thoſe who fled. Theſe little anecdotes ſerve to delineate this great man, whoſe manners gained him the poſſeſſion of all hearts.

Henry, after ſome interval, cauſed by the want of money, formed the blockade of Paris. The Duke of Namours, brother to the Duke of Mayenne, commanded there in quality of governor, who provided for every thing which might happen, with prudence and ſingular activity. There were encloſed in Paris 220,000 people; and three months blockade having exhauſted their proviſions, the famine became intolerable: they were already reduced to grind the bones of the dead to make them bread. The religious, who firſt inſpired the ardour of martyrdom, were not the moſt careleſs about life: a viſit made in the convents developed their intereſted contrivances; for an abundance of proviſions were found among the Capuchins. This diſcovery afforded a little reſource; but Paris would not have eſcaped Henry's force, if, through an exceſs of goodneſs, he had not ſuffered thoſe who were uſeleſs to retire,

and ordered his own officers and ſoldiers to let refreſhments enter for their friends. This conduct was undoubtedly imprudent; but it was an imprudence well worthy of admiration.

Mean time, neceſſity rendered the Pariſians more tractable, and they offered to ſubmit, provided the King would renounce calviniſm. Believing himſelf ſure of ſucceſs, he was willing to impoſe conditions himſelf; but an unforeſeen event made him loſe the fruit of ſo much labour. Philip II. who feared the end of theſe troubles, and who flattered himſelf with gaining the crown of France, had ordered the Duke of Parma, Govenor of the low Countries, to march to the ſuccour of Paris. This famous general approached with a powerful army, and the deliverance of Paris was the end of his expedition.

This thunderbolt greatly diſcouraged the King's troops, who were in want of money, clothes, and nouriſhment. The King himſelf was in want of a dinner, going to eat every day in the tent of his ſuperintendant of the finances, whoſe table was not very well ſerved. After the departure of the Duke of Parma, who very ſoon retired into the Low Countries, war continued in France with the ſame animoſity, without producing any thing memorable.

Queen Elizabeth, and the proteſtant princes of Germany, having ſent Henry a reinforcement of troops, he undertook the ſiege of Rouen, one of the bulwarks of the league. It was ſaid of the Pariſians, that they knew better how to faſt than to fight; but the contrary might be ſaid of Rouen. Villas Brancas, ſtrongly ſeconded by the garriſon and citizens, defended himſelf with a valour, of which there are few examples in hiſtory. Henry often expoſed himſelf as an officer of fortune, and the attack and defence were equally lively; but the rebels would have been at laſt overpowered, if the Duke of Parma had not come once more to their aſſiſtance. The King marched with part of the army to give him battle, and was wounded in an action, wherein, at the head of a few horſe, he aſſaulted an army of 30,000 men. His enemies might have taken him, had they purſued him; but the Duke of Parma, ſuppoſing that he was ſupported by all his cavalry, loſt this deciſive opportunity. Henry was conſtrained to raiſe the ſiege of Rouen; but misfortunes ſerved only the more eagerly to excite his courage. He purſued the Duke of Parma, who was engaged in the county of Caux. This general, in want of proviſions, ſcarcely recovered from a diſorder which was occaſioned by a wound, found himſelf, in his turn, in extreme danger; there were no means

means of his escaping but by passing the Seine at Caudebec, which was very wide, and the undertaking appeared impossible. The King, at the same time, did not contrive to put any obstacle in his way; for the Duke found a bridge of boats ready, of which he had not the least expectation. The Duke's forces passed the bridge, destroyed it, and made their retreat unmolested to Paris.

There were at that time two factions in Paris: one considerably fallen, who were devoted to the Spaniards, and irritated against Mayenne; the other, the political party, composed of the magistrates and the principal citizens. These demanded only of Henry his submissions to the church; but the other party were for electing a new King, and the Spaniards, on their side, demanded the abolishment of the salique law, and that the infanta of Spain should be declared Queen of France.

Never had Henry been in such cruel perplexities; for a King, elected by the States, would most likely have drawn after him all the Catholics, and those few of that religion, who were of his party, were much displeased at his perseverance in so detestable a sect. Hence he had no resource left, but to wage eternal war, or to change his religion.

The wisest of the Hugonots, as well as the most moderate among the protestant ministers, endeavoured to persuade Henry of the ne-

ceſſity of his embracing the Catholic principles, which he at laſt promiſed to conform to. The people of that religion then attached themſelves to his perſon, and propoſed conferences to thoſe of Paris; but theſe conferences produced little effect.

In the midſt of theſe agitations, the parliament, aſſuming its ancient vigour, publiſhed a decree for the ſupport of the fundamental laws of the kingdom, and to prevent thoſe, who, under pretence of religion, were for transferring the crown into the hands of a ſtranger. The King of Spain was diſſatisfied with this proclamation, and ſtill more by the converſion of Henry, who, after one or two days conference with the biſhops, made his abjuration at St. Denis, before the archbiſhop of Bourges, and received from him abſolution from all cenſures. This was the moſt happy event that could be deſired; but the legate, inſtead of laying his hands on him, forbid, under pain of excommunication, any one to aſſiſt at the ceremony. The Pariſians, however, ran in crowds, thereby clearly proving, that their diſlike to the religion of the King extended not to his perſon; but there were ſome, who were fanatics through ſyſtem, and who were not ſo eaſily reconciled as the reſt of the people. Henry read his recantation in the year 1593. This year, Henry ran the riſk of being aſſaſſinated, by a young ſailor named Barriere. Being taken in the attempt,

attempt, and put to the queſtion, he confeſſed that a Capuchin, a Jeſuit, a Curate of Paris, and another Prieſt, whom he mentioned, had put him upon this infamous attempt. Indeed, aſſaſſinations and murders ſeem to have been common with the Romiſh clergy.

The French, notwithſtanding the obſtacles which party rage threw in the way, by degrees returned to their duty, and the League loſt its power and credit. As ſoon as reflection began to ſucceed the fury of party rage, Meaux, Pontoiſe, Orleans, Bourges, and and Lyons ſubmitted; when the Duke of Mayenne quitted Paris, not thinking himſelf in ſafety there.

Nothing was of more conſequence than to re-eſtabliſh the parliament in its former glory, and to confirm monarchy by the authority of laws. The faithful Magiſtrates returned to the capital, and were re-eſtabliſhed, on condition that they ſhould remain on the ſpot. From this time, the ancient ſpirit of patriotiſm again ſhone forth in the parliament: it cancelled all acts, decrees, and oaths, which had been made ſince 1588, and which were found prejudicial to the authority of the King, and the laws of the kingdom, as having been extorted by force. It revoked the power given to the Duke of Mayenne, and annulled the acts of the laſt aſſembly at Paris, under the name of the States General. Every thing that fanaticiſm

had inſpired, ſeemed condemed to oblivion. If any thing be capable of uniting the hearts of a people, it muſt be a conduct like that of Henry's.

When Henry was entering into Paris, ſome officers had ſtopped the baggage of La Noue, for debts that his father had contracted in the ſervice of the State. This gentleman, truly worthy of conſideration, complained of this violence. Henry publicly replied, "La Noue muſt pay his debts—I regularly pay mine."—The King then, taking him aſide, gave him jewels to redeem the baggage that had been ſeized. Theſe marks of diſintereſted generoſity, however, were too weak in themſelves to attract the principal Lords of the League, who ſet their ſubmiſſion at the higheſt price, proving, by ſuch conduct, that religion was the leaſt motive of their rebellion. Villiers ſurrendered Rouen, exacting for it prodigious ſums, beſides the appointment of Admiral, and the government of ſeveral places. According to the Memoirs of Sully, it coſt thirty-two millions to ſatisfy the avarice of three rapacious men. Any other Prince would have eluded the promiſes which neceſſity had extorted from him; but Henry faithfully acquitted his, when he was in a condition of violating them with impunity.

The atrocious crimes which proceed from the prejudices of religion, are not eaſily effaced; and hence the ſuperſtitious ſpirit of the

the League ſtill ſubſiſted. The attempt projected by Barriere was nearly executed by John Chattel, the ſon of a tradeſman at Paris, a young man, ſuſceptible of all the impreſſions of fanaticiſm. Having ſlidden into the chamber, among a crowd which ſurrounded the King, he endeavoured to give him a ſtroke with a dagger in the throat; but, happily for Henry, who was ſtooping to receive the homage of a Lord, the ſtroke only wounded his lip, and broke a tooth. The aſſaſſin was inſtantly ſeized, when he confeſſed, that, knowing himſelf to be guilty of great ſins, he thought to avoid hell by this action, which he looked on as juſt and meritorious, becauſe the King was not reconciled to the church, and had been reputed a tyrant; that he had heard it determined on in ſeveral places, eſpecially in the houſe of the Jeſuits, where it was made a part of their ſtudies. He added, that theſe fathers had often introduced him into a chamber of meditations, full of frightful figures of hell.——The depoſitions of John Chattel precipitated the diſgrace of the Jeſuits, and the parliament of Paris baniſhed them as corrupters of youth, diſturbers of the public repoſe, and enemies to the King and State. Guignard, librarian to the college, was hanged for having preſerved the ſeditious writings, of which he was the author.

The Duke of Mayenne was the moſt dangerous, and the moſt culpable among the

ſmall number of Lords who perſiſted in the rebellion. The King attacked him in his government of Burgundy, where he found a Spaniſh army, under the orders of the Conſtable of Caſtile. Henry putting himſelf at the head of 300 horſe, in order to reconnoitre the enemy, he ſuddenly met the whole army. "Follow me," ſaid Henry to his men, "and do as you ſee me do;" and then briſkly began the attack. Never had Henry run ſo much riſk, or ſhewn ſo much valour, as on this day. The Spaniſh General was unwilling to hazard a battle; and being perſuaded, as was formerly the Duke of Parma, that the King would not expoſe himſelf in this manner without having a larger party of his troops at hand, he precipitately retired, vanquiſhed by an handful of his enemies. On this occaſion, Henry ſaid, that he had formerly fought for victory, but here he fought for life. Bravery and good fortune here performed wonders.

Henry then granted a truce to the Duke of Mayenne, and peace was concluded the following year. This illuſtrious Chief of the party, whom they were not willing to puſh to the laſt extremity, obtained conditions more advantageous than he could have expected. The goodneſs and policy of the King brought him back to his duty; he loaded him with careſſes; and the Duke declared, that

that it was then only his ſovereign had conquered him.

At length, Henry declared war againſt Philip, the principal actor in theſe civil troubles; but this war was the renewal of misfortunes. The Spaniards took Cambray, and, in 1596, made more important conqueſts, taking Calais and Ardres. It was during this unſucceſsful war, that Henry wrote the following ſingular letter to Sully—"I am very near my enemies, and have not a horſe on which I can fight; my ſhirts are all torn to pieces; my coat is out at the elbows; and, for theſe few days paſt, I have dined ſometimes with one, and ſometimes with another, my purveyors not being able to furniſh my table."

The bad adminiſtration of the finances rendered Henry's beſt ſchemes fruitleſs; he therefore gave this important poſt to the famous Sully, when the face of every thing was immediately changed. Extortions ceaſed, the avarice of the Noblemen and Financiers were reſtrained, order was re-eſtabliſhed throughout, and the people's money carried directly to the treaſury, and conſecrated to public uſe; the taxes were levied with wiſdom, and the debts faithfully acquitted; a juſt œconomy enriched the Prince and kingdom; and, in a word, during the interval of fifteen years, the time Sully was Miniſter, notwithſtanding the conſiderable diminution

of all kinds of taxes, and the payment of debts, the revenues of the Crown encreaſed four millions. Such were the glorious conſequences of having a wiſe King, and an able and faithful Miniſter.

In 1598, Henry publiſhed the famous edict of Nantes, which ſecured to his old friends, the Proteſtants, the free exerciſe of their religion; and, the next year, his treaty of Verviens with the King of Spain, finiſhed the eſtabliſhment of the tranquillity of his kingdom. Nothing could be more honourable to France than this treaty; for the Spaniards gave back all they had taken in Picardy, and Henry returned nothing. Soon after died the King of Spain, Philip II. whoſe ambition had put all Europe in agitation, without gaining any advantage to himſelf. Holland drew itſelf from his dominion, France delivered itſelf from his injuſtice, and five thouſand five hundred millions of gold, diſſipated in fruitleſs projects, proved that he was the moſt powerful Monarch in Europe, but not the greateſt King. His profeſſed zeal againſt Proteſtantiſm did not hinder him from animating the Proteſtants againſt the Catholics, when it was agreeable to his intereſt ſo to do.

Though truth will not permit us to conceal the faults of great men, yet we ought to make a good uſe of their faults, by drawing from them uſeful leſſons for human life.—

Though

Though Henry triumphed over his enemies, yet he was a ſlave to love. Gabriella of Eſtree, the Ducheſs of Beaufort, held him in ſuch captivity, that it is ſaid he had thoughts of making her his Queen. He had a long time lived ſeparate from his wife, Margaret of Valois, and a mutual antipathy, which could never be conquered, kept them ſeparate. They each deſired a divorce, and applied to Rome for that purpoſe. The motive on which they founded their pretences, was, that their marriage had beeen forced, and that they had not obtained neceſſary diſpenſations. In the mean time, a ſudden death ſnatched away the lovely Gabriella, and Henry, ſoon after, fell deſperately in love with Madam d'Entrangues, daughter of a miſtreſs of Charles IX. She took pains to encreaſe his paſſion, and then declared, that ſhe would never ſatisfy it without a promiſe of marriage. The promiſe was ſigned, Henry ſhewed it to Sully, and aſked his advice. This honeſt miniſter took the paper, and tore it into pieces without making any reply.—"How!" cried the King enraged, "I believe you are mad!" Sully coldly anſwered, "It is true, Sire, I am mad; and I ſhould be content to be outrageouſly ſo, could I be the only madman in France." Sully made no doubt of his approaching diſgrace; but, on the contrary, ſome days afterwards, he was made grand-maſter of the artillery. His

zeal was ſtill better recompenſed by the reſolution which the King took of concluding a marriage more worthy of him. The Commiſſaries of the Pope having pronounced the ſentence of divorce, he married Mary of Medicis, by whom he had Lewis XIII.

Henry then chaſtiſed the Duke of Savoy, who had taken advantage of the late troubles in his kingdom, and applied himſelf with wonderful attention and ſucceſs (aſſiſted in all his undertakings by his Miniſter, the great Sully) to cultivate the happineſs of his people, by encouraging manufactures, particularly that of ſilk, the benefit of which France feels at this day.

We are now arrived at the moſt glorious æra of the reign of Henry IV. The whole kingdom reaped, in the boſom of peace, the fruits of a government full of wiſdom, juſtice, and frugality. Arts, commerce, and agriculture, inſenſibly made amends for all former misfortunes. Three hundred and thirty millions of debt did not frighten the zeal of the ſuperintendant Sully, whoſe indefatigable genius found reſources for every thing. In this period, a French colony eſtabliſhed itſelf in Canada; and the King, by the good management of his finances, was enabled to raiſe ſuperb edifices: the Gallery of the Louvre, and the Pontneuf, are his works. However, amidſt all his works, equally noble and uſeful, his unhappy weakneſs for women drew on him

him new troubles. Madam Etrangues, whom he had made Marchioneſs of Verneuil, preſerved too much empire over his heart. Queen Maria of Medicis was cruelly wounded by it, and gave herſelf up to the moſt poignant grief. This great Prince, like many others, was a dupe to his paſſions. D'Etrangues the father, and the Marchioneſs de Verneuil, carried their ingratitude ſo far as to conſpire againſt him, endeavouring to make him perform the promiſe of marriage he had the imprudence to give. They were proſecuted, condemned, and obtained mercy. On the other ſide, the Duke of Bouillon, though indebted to Henry for his marriage with the heireſs of Sedan, took every meaſure in his power to raiſe an inſurrection among the Hugonots. The King, gaining nothing by fair means, took the reſolution of employing force. He ſet out with his troops, the Duke humbled himſelf, and gave up Sedan, which was almoſt immediatly reſtored to him.

The title of peace-maker, more worthy of a great prince than that of conqueror, was reſerved for the King of France, who managed the firſt treaty between Spain and the United Provinces. A furious war, which had laſted forty years, ſeemed to have rendered them irreconcilable. On one ſide, Maurice, the Prince of Orange, endeavoured to continue it for his own particular intereſt, while

the wiſe Barnevelt deſired, for the good of his country, to put an end to it. On the other ſide, the Spaniards, always treating the Hollanders as rebels, were far from ſatisfying them. The Preſident Jeannin, Ambaſſador in Holland, fulfilled the beneficent views of Henry. By a wonderful negociation, he managed their different diſpoſitions with ſo much addreſs, that all obſtacles diſappeared. Philip III. concluded with the States a truce of twelve years, acknowledging them free provinces, over which he claimed no authority.

We muſt not here omit mentioning an anecdote of theſe redoubtable republicans, which will ſerve as a picture of theſe now *Moſt High and Mighty Lords* in the year 1608. When the Ambaſſadors of Spain went to the Hague to conclude the terms of peace, they met the Deputies of the State ſitting on the graſs, and eating their dinner. Every one had brought his own proviſions, which conſiſted of bread, cheeſe, and beer. At this ſight, the Spaniards were ſurprized and aſtoniſhed, exclaiming, "Behold the people who cannot be conquered, and with whom it is then neceſſary we ſhould make peace."

Nothing was now wanting to complete the happineſs and glory of the King, but the ſurmounting the moſt dangerous of all paſſions. Among the women whom he loved, was Catharine of Rohan. When he made her a declaration of his paſſion, ſhe replied, "I

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The Dutch Council of State.

am too poor to be your wife, and of too good a family to be your miſtreſs." The young Prince of Condé was deſirous of marrying the daughter of the Marſhal of Montmorency; and the charms of that Princeſs had, at the ſame time, ſtruck Henry in the moſt lively manner. He made no attempt to diſſemble his inclinations, and thereby drew on himſelf freſh troubles. All at once, the firſt Prince of the blood diſappeared, and carried his wife with him to Bruſſels, where the Court of Spain was not wanting in offering him every aſſiſtance. The King was extremely afflicted at this evaſion; and the more occaſion he had to reproach himſelf for his licentious love, the more he endeavoured to make amends for it by his care in government, and his great enterprizes.

Ravilliac had, for a long time, contrived the perpetration of the murder of this illuſtrious King. He ſeized the opportunity, when Henry's coach was ſtopped, by being entangled with ſome chariots, and plunged his dagger into his breaſt. This villain, who was born at Angouleme, had been a noviciate at the Houſe of the Feullans, at Paris, and was inſpired, like John Chattel, with the fanaticiſm of the League. The name of Hugonot alone made him tremble, and he hoped to extirpate his crimes by martyrdom, in murdering a hero, whoſe religion ſome madmen ſuſpected, and which he thus effected

in the year 1610; but he conſtantly denied having any accomplices. This was, at leaſt, the fifth conſpiracy againſt the life of Henry. Two Dominicans of Flanders, and a Capuchin brother of Milan, had come expreſs to kill him, and had been puniſhed with death. Over ſuch deeds we ſhould caſt a veil, to hide them from the knowledge of Mankind, were they not neceſſary to inſpire us with abhorrence of the frenzy of falſe zeal, and to make us the more admire the true maxims of Chriſtian charity.

Henry IV. to extreme freedom, united the beſt-directed policy; to the moſt exalted ſentiments, the moſt charming ſimplicity of manners; and to the courage of a ſoldier, an inexhauſtible fund of humanity. Every thing in him ſeemed the expreſſion of an amiable ſoul. He often converſed freely with his ſoldiers and the people, in ſuch a manner as ſtill to acquire freſh reſpect. Sometimes, ſitting among his guards, he would eat a piece of black bread, in order to teach his troops patience; ſometimes he would comfort the peaſants for the miſeries that were brought on them by the League, by declaring that he would ſhare them with them, his greateſt ambition being to make his ſubjects happy.

The Duke of Savoy one day aſked him, at what he valued the revenues of France:—"It is worth what I pleaſe," ſaid he to him, "yes, what I pleaſe; becauſe that, having

having the hearts of my people, I can do what I will. If God give me life, the time ſhall come when there ſhall not be a labourer in my kingdom, who ſhall not have it in his power to have a fowl in his pot; and, if ſo, I ſhall ſtill continue to be able to ſupport my ſoldiers, in ſubjecting thoſe to reaſon, who would deprive me of my authority."

Some peaſants houſes having been pillaged in Champagne, he was told of it, and immediately ſent for the Captains, who were at Paris, ſaying to them, in a ſevere tone, "Look after them diligently, and keep them in order. You will, perhaps, aſk me what I mean. If they ruin my people, who will nouriſh me? Who will ſupport the public charges? Who will pay your penſions? Gentlemen, as God lives, to take from my ſubjects, is taking from me?" He was, however, a friend to his officers, as well as the father of his people.

The Spaniſh Ambaſſador one day teſtified ſome ſurprize at ſeeing him ſurrounded by a crowd of gentlemen. "If you had ſeen me in the day of battle," ſaid he to him, "you would have ſeen them preſs about me ſtill more."

His goodneſs did not degenerate into a weak compliance; for he knew how to refuſe on proper occaſions, and would make them ſee the juſtice of the refuſal. A man of rank once implored mercy for his nephew, who had

had been guilty of murder. His reply was that of a good prince, who was desirous of pardoning, but who could not excuse himself from punishing where it was necessary. "I am very sorry," said he, "that I cannot grant what you ask: it becomes you to be the uncle, but me to be the King. I excuse your request; do you excuse my refusal."

If he were sometimes prodigal to ill-disposed Noblemen, and recompensed less generously the services of his faithful Captains; if he established a kind of imposition, which perpetuated in families, those places which ought to have been the reward of merit; if he suffered many abuses to subsist; if he did not do all the good which might have been done in other times, it was less his fault than that of particular circumstances. Every thing was to be reformed, every thing was to be renewed; but he conquered and pacified his kingdom; he stifled the League and religious wars; he re-established order in his finances, made himself beloved by France, and respected by foreign powers. In short, he reigned gloriously, in spite of many obstacles, many disorders, and many enemies. One of the greatest objects of his policy, conformable to the principles of Sully, was the enlivening the provinces by agriculture, the true source of riches. An enemy to luxury, which has always more inconveniencies than advantages attending it in a vast monarchy,

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he diſcouraged it by his example and diſcourſes. He perſuaded Noblemen to retire to their eſtates, teaching them, that the beſt dependance they had, was from good management. The clergy having made him remonſtrances in 1598, on various abuſes, eſpecially in the nomination of benefices, he replied, "I find the abuſe real; I find it eſtabliſhed; I hope to reform it, and put the church again into a flouriſhing ſtate; but do you, on your ſide, contribute a little towards it. Set good examples, that the people may be induced to follow them; and that, you going before, they may be turned to the right way. You have exhorted me to my duty; I will exhort you to yours." Unfortunately, he did not always find, in the eccleſiaſtics, that love for virtue, which eſtabliſhes itſelf better by example than words.

LEWIS XIII.—The report of the aſſaſſination of Henry having reached the Louvre, the Queen, in tears, left her cloſet, and, meeting with the Chancellor de Selles, told him the King was dead. "Madam," replied he, without taking any notice of her emotion, "your Majeſty muſt excuſe me, Kings never die in France." They diſſembled this misfortune, in order to take neceſſary meaſures; for Lewis XIII. was then only nine years old, and no Regency appointed.

The Duke of Epernon, one of the noblemen who had been the moſt turbulent under the late

late reign, ran to the parliament, reſolving to nominate Mary of Medicis. He ſeated himſelf on the bench by his Peers, and, putting his hand on his ſword,—"It is as yet in the ſcabbard," ſaid he, "but it will ſoon unſheath itſelf, if you do not, in an inſtant, grant the Queen-mother a title, which is her due by the laws of nature and juſtice." The circumſtance would not admit of delay; the threats of the Duke, who was as powerful as haughty, made great impreſſion on the Magiſtrates, and the Queen was immediately proclaimed Regent.

A new form of government now ſprung up, which ſeemed to foretel the decay of the kingdom. The Queen was governed by the Florentine Concini, and ſtill more by his wife Eleanor Gelagai, who were entirely taken up with making their own fortunes, and had no other regard for France, than to enrich themſelves with its ſpoils. The council was a confuſed aſſembly, where no ſalutary meaſures could be reſolved on. They abandoned the great project of Henry IV. who had it at heart to revenge himſelf of the court of Spain, and even ſhewed the utmoſt deſire to reconcile themſelves to that court. It was in vain that Sully endeavoured to ſupport the honour of the nation; for a treaty, which had been made with the Duke of Savoy, to aſſiſt him in conquering the Milaneſe, was ſhamefully broken, and that Prince

Prince obliged to aſk pardon of Philip III.

The greateſt man who then belonged to the ſtate, the Duke of Sully, ever deteſtable to the courtiers and financiers, whoſe injuſtice he had brought to light, and whoſe murmurs he had contemned, too firm to change his views and ſentiments, in order to conform to the new court, in a ſhort time loſt all his credit, gave up his place, and retired. Being recalled ſome years afterwards, when they had need of his advice, his dreſs and his manners, which were entirely different from the mode, were turned into ridicule by the young courtiers. "This is unworthy treatment, Sire," ſaid he to the King; "when your father did me the honour of conſulting me, he previouſly ſent away all the buffoons and coxcombs of the court." This great ſtateſman died, in 1641, in his retirement.

This, among many other ſimilar reſignations, was an evil preſage for the ſtate; for now, acknowledged merit ſunk under the weight of prejudice and intrigue. In the ſame degree as government grew weak and degenerate, faction and diſcontent became audacious. The ſpirit of rebellion, which Henry with difficulty reſtrained, was kindled even in the heart of the court.

Four civil wars broke out under this reign, through the diſcontent of the Princes and Nobles. Concini, the Florentine favourite, offered

offered to raiſe, at his own expence, an army of ſeven thouſand men; he who formerly had not ſufficient to pay a domeſtic. His fortune ſufficiently juſtified the cries of the people; but he was not able to ſupport himſelf againſt ſo many ſtorms as were now gathering round him. The fall of this Italian was as ſtrange as his elevation; for, though Princes had not been able to overthrow him, yet the young Luines brought about that event. This gentleman, who was born in Comtat, had been page to Henry IV. and had inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of Lewis, by diſciplining birds of prey. His favour daily encreaſing, and being maſter of the confidence of the King, whoſe weak ſoul always ſuffered him to be governed, he ſuggeſted to Lewis the hint of withdrawing himſelf from the tutorage of a mother, who reigned under his name; and perſuaded him to begin, by calling the Italian favourite to an account, who exerciſed all the authority of the Queen. Vitri, Captain of the body guard, was ſent to arreſt him, with orders to kill him, if he reſiſted. They took care to interpret this order in ſuch a manner, that Concini did not eſcape death: he was ſhot by a piſtol, in entering the Louvre. Vitri immediately cried out, "Long live the King!" Lewis appeared at the window, and approved the deed; and the Captain of the guards was honoured with the ſtaff of Marſhal of France. It was an abaſement

abaſement of theſe great places to beſtow them in ſuch a manner.

As ſoon as Concini was dead, the Queen-mother was made priſoner in the Louvre, and afterwards removed to Blois. Her ſon now ſhewed as much cruelty as he had formerly ſubmiſſion. Concini's wife ought to have been ſent back into Italy; for there was no reaſon for purſuing her, and humanity ſeemed to ſpeak in her favour. However, the parliament was ordered to proſecute her; and ſorcery and magic were the principal crimes laid to her charge. She and her huſband had, in reality, drawn together a number of thoſe impoſtors, who, under the names of aſtrologers and diviners, abuſed the credulity of the great.

Being interrogated by the Commiſſary of Parliament, what charms ſhe had made uſe of to faſcinate the Queen-mother, ſhe replied, "The aſcendancy which a ſuperior ſoul muſt always have over a weak one." She ſaid the Queen had ſo little underſtanding, that there was no occaſion for ſorcery, in order to govern her. The parliament declared her criminal of an offence to majeſty, human and divine. Without ſpecifying the nature of the laſt crime, ſhe was burnt as one whom they believed a ſorcereſs. A great deal of riches, accumulated by ſelling pardons, made, without doubt, the principal fault for which ſhe died; and the riches of her and her huſband

band indiſputably haſtened her end. The King beſtowed his ſpoil on his favourite Luines, who thus at once became one of the richeſt noblemen in the kingdom.

The fierce Duke of Epernon conſpired with the Queen-mother, who fled from Blois, and followed him to Angouleme. They wrote letters to the King, full of ſubmiſſion, at the ſame time that they were raiſing troops againſt him. The war ended in a diſhonourable accommodation: they gave the Queen the government of Anjou, inſtead of that of Normandy. The Duke of Epernon, though guilty of an offence againſt his Majeſty, preſerved all his places, and might be ſaid, in ſome degree, to triumph over his ſovereign.

The fortune of Luines freed itſelf from all obſtacles. He was already a duke, a peer, and a marſhal of France, and it was not at all doubted, but he would obtain the place of conſtable, vacated by the death of Henry of Montmorency. The Duke of Mayenne had ſaid, with great truth, that it would be very aſtoniſhing to ſee a man made conſtable, who did not know the weight of a ſword. The quality of the favourite ſupplied all deficiency, and Luines very ſoon obtained the place of conſtable.

The malcontents from all parts crowded to Mary de Medicis, who held her court at Angiers, and refuſed to return to Paris. The mother

mother and ſon took up arms againſt each other, till a new treaty ſeemed to reſtore tranquillity. This was the work of the Biſhop of Lucon, the celebrated Richlieu, whoſe fortune was rapidly advancing. Far from regulating his conduct by the court, or the opinion of his dioceſe, after the fall of Concini, he had affected, in his retreat, to write books of devotion, while he was waiting an opportunity of rebelling. The Queen-mother having occaſion for him, he had made himſelf maſter of her council, through the ſtrength of his genius and policy. It was thought that he held a ſecret correſpondence with Luines, with a deſign of accommodating matters to his own intereſt; and that the favourite, in order to gain him, had promiſed him a cardinal's hat. Richlieu, at leaſt, was of ſome ſervice to the ſtate, at the ſame time that he was working for his own intereſt.

Luines did not long enjoy his good fortune, being attacked with a fever, of which he died in the forty-third year of his age, being at the ſame time conſtable and maſter of the ſeals. Lewis complained, but knew not how to reign ſo valiantly as Henry IV. he was wanting in that ſtrength of mind, and courage of ſoul, which form great men and true heroes. The following campaign, however, procured that glory of which he was moſt deſirous: he expoſed himſelf to dangers, and ſeveral times faced death.

Lewis

Lewis, after various expeditions in Poitou and Saintonge, beſieged Montpelier, which ſeemed determined to defend itſelf to the laſt extremities. A negociation took place, and peace was made on advantageous terms for the Hugonots, who obtained a confirmation of the edict of Nantz, and all their privileges. A general pardon was paſſed, and 800,000 livres were given to the rebellious Duke of Rohan; for the weakneſs of the monarch reduced him to recompence the cheifs of the rebellion. The Marquis de la Force, who had maintained the ſiege of Montaubon, had already been rewarded with 200,000 crowns and the Marſhals ſtaff. From ſuch treaties, neither ſubmiſſion from the ſeditious, nor zeal from citizens, could be expected.

During theſe troubles in the kingdom, a religious war had been the cauſe of the ſame misfortunes in Germany. The Proteſtants of Bohemia, having ſhaken off the yoke of the Emperor, had given themſelves to the Elector Palatine Frederic V. This Prince, ſon-in-law to James I. the puſillanimous King of England, had received no ſuccours from him. The battle of Prague, in 1620, loſt him not only Bohemia, but his own eſtate. Never was a better opportunity for ſubjecting the Houſe of Auſtria, which Richlieu would not have loſt; but he no longer governed. Lewis favoured the Emperor Ferdinand II. chooſing rather to make war on his

his own ſubjects, than to weaken the power of the natural enemy of his crown. Such are the misfortunes natural to every ſtate, which is governed by a weak and miſguided prince.

Lewis had now need of ſome great genius to correct theſe political blunders: ſuch an one exiſted, who very ſoon removed all the obſtacles that ſtopped his fortune. The Queen-mother, from the time of her reconciliation with the King, had re-entered the council, and was deſirous of introducing Richlieu, who at length became Cardinal. The Miniſters, fearing his ambition, and ſtill more the ſuperiority of his underſtanding, prejudiced Lewis againſt him. The gallantries with which they reproached him, could not fail of hurting him in the eyes of a devout prince, too ſuſpicious of others, and too jealous of his own authority, not to fear him, who had been repreſented to him as the moſt ambitious of courtiers. However, by the means of Mary of Medicis, the Cardinal's enemies had, on a vacancy happening, the chagrin of ſeeing him admitted into the miniſtry. The more Richlieu ſecretly deſired ſuch promotion, the more repugnancy he affected on receiving it: his bad health, he ſaid, rendered him incapable of any long conſultations: all that he was able to do, was, to aſſiſt in the council, from time to time, without mixing in affairs of ſtate. The King was thus deceived; but Richlieu had other views; and, ſome years afterwards,

wards, the royal authority was entirely in his hands.

In 1627, the Counts Chapelles and Boutteville, noblemen diſtinguiſhed by their bravery, had their heads cut off on a ſcaffold, for having fought duels; for the rage of duelling, at that time, made terrible havock. They reckoned nearly eighty thouſand pardons being granted, in leſs than twenty years, to gentlemen who had killed others in ſingle combat.

About this time, Rochelle was beſieged and taken, after a moſt vigorous and noble defence. In the courſe of this ſiege, Richlieu, who had the command of it, gave an example, how much genius could ſupply the want of experience, even in war; for order, diſcipline, and abundance, were not wanting. The Cardinal aſtoniſhed the ſoldiers by his valour, and his captains by his addreſs.

While Richlieu, who was now made Lieutenant General of the army in Italy, was carrying on the war there, Mary of Medicis was redoubling her efforts to ruin him. Lewis being dangerouſly ill at Lyons, the continual entreaties and importunities of his mother tore from him a promiſe of diſmiſſing the Cardinal; and every one expected a change that would deſtroy the kingdom. As ſoon as Richlieu heard of it, he endeavoured by every means to reconcile himſelf: he often threw himſelf at the feet of the Queen, without being able

to

to make any impreſſion on her: "I would rather give myſelf to the devil," ſaid ſhe, "than not be revenged." The Miniſter now ſaw the moment of his diſgrace haſtily approaching; he was on the point of taking leave, and had already ſecured his treaſures in a place of ſafety, when Lewis changed his mind, and again received Richlieu into favour: "Continue to ſerve me as you have done," ſaid the Monarch to him, "and I will ſupport you againſt all the intrigues of your enemies."

Nothing but diſſentions were now ſeen at court. Richlieu, though he owed his fortune to Mary de Medicis, was forced, by his circumſtances, to become her perſecutor. Lewis took part againſt his mother, on the ſide of a ſubject who was of uſe to him, and left her priſoner at Compeigne, and alſo baniſhed or arreſted her friends and domeſtics. The Marſhal de Boſſompiere, on the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion, was ſhut up twelve years in the Baſtile. Thoſe who followed the Duke of Orleans, were declared criminals againſt his Majeſty, and the parliament treated them with rigour. Thus the Cardinal raiſed himſelf more and more on the ruins of his enemies.

The grand project of abaſing the Houſe of Auſtria began now to be executed. Ferdinand II. in ordering the reſtitution of the Catholic eſtates, which had been taken by the

the Proteſtants, drew into his arms a part of Germany; and Richlieu, in ſpite of the Catholics, animated the Proteſtant alliance, that being moſt favourable to his projects. Religion was the people's motive for war, and reaſons of ſtate determined the politicians.—The moſt powerful of the Lutheran Princes, the famous Guſtavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, was armed againſt the Emperor, and his victories ſhook the foundation of that monarch's dominions. France furniſhed money, and the valour of Guſtavus did all the reſt.

In the midſt of cabals and conſpiracies, which were inceſſantly forming againſt Richlieu, he meditated new enterprizes againſt the Houſe of Auſtria, which were the means of rendering himſelf more neceſſary to the King, who was incapable alone of ſupporting ſo great an undertaking. By a treaty concluded with Holland, they engaged themſelves to make war with the King of Spain, Philip IV. if he did not give ſatisfaction on different grievances, of which France complained. They projected the conqueſt of the Low Spaniſh countries, and were ſo ſure of ſucceſs, as to make the diviſion before they began the campaign. However, they failed in every thing, and Lewis complained bitterly of the little ſucceſs of his arms; but Richlieu managed with ſo much addreſs, that theſe complaints did him no harm.

To repair the ill ſucceſs of the laſt campaign, Richlieu adopted a new plan, which again failed in execution. The Spaniards entered the Low Countries in Picardy, and, in a few days, took Chapelle, Corbic, and Catelet, which Richlieu had neglected to fortify. He imputed to the commanders a loſs, which was attributed, by the reſt of the world, to his own negligence. Terror ſpread itſelf through Paris and the Court; but zeal re-animated Richlieu in his danger. In theſe ſad circumſtances, having drawn on himſelf the utmoſt hatred, he was on the point of quitting the miniſtry, when Father Joſeph perſuaded him to the contrary. Very powerful enemies were, however, weaving a thread for the deſtruction of the Miniſter. The Duke of Orleans, and the Count de Soiſſons, who commanded the army in Picardy, reſolved to have him ſtabbed, even in the very houſe of the King. The moment for execution was come, and the aſſaſſins only waited for a ſignal from Gaſton, when that Prince, ever changing and irreſolute, was all at once ſhocked with the idea of being reckoned an aſſaſſin. He retired with precipitation; and Richlieu, without knowing it, eſcaped the danger of an inevitable death. The plotters could not be long unknown, and the two Princes quitted the Court. This was a new ſubject of inquietude to the Cardinal, at a time

time when enemies without doors were too much to be feared.

While money was wanting for the common neceſſaries of the ſtate, the expences of Richlieu's houſe alone, amounted to four millions annually: he lived like a King, and eclipſed the ſplendour of the Throne.

The little intrigues at Court gave more inquietude to Richlieu than the events of war. He had given to Lewis, for his Confeſſor, Father Cauſin, who was the author of a book of devotion that is now laughed at. The Cardinal believed him a ſimple man, incapable of creating any troubles, and who would eaſily enter into all his views; but it happened that, in a little time, the ſimplicity of this Jeſuit changed the face of government. His prejudices made him look on the alliances with the Proteſtants againſt the Houſe of Auſtria as an abominable thing, and he dared to attribute it to the ambition of the Cardinal. He accuſed him of loading the people with taxes; of treating the Queen-mother inhumanly, who lived at Bruſſels, in want of every thing; and of rendering the government odious by his injuſtice. The devout Monarch lent a willing ear to the diſcourſe of the imprudent Confeſſor. Lewis liked to hear the Miniſter declaimed againſt, and was the firſt to blame him in ſecret. He deſcended to the more minute

minute detail of his private life, and found every thing bad; but the conſolation of weak ſouls is to complain without the power of acting.

Richlieu, in a diſcourſe he had with the King, without much trouble, through the ſtrength of reaſon and eloquence, diſpelled the impreſſions the Jeſuit had made in his flexible mind. He revenged himſelf by the baniſhment of Cauſin, who carried nothing but blame with him to his own country.

War, raiſed in Europe through the policy of the Cardinal, produced an infinite number of events, the detail of which would furniſh no inſtruction. It was the cuſtom of Richlieu, after any reverſe of fortune, to puniſh ſome illuſtrious victim, either to ſatisfy his vengeance, or to excite duty by ſpreading terror. Four hundred new patent places, created in the parliament of Paris, and other extraordinary means employed to gain money, encreaſed the murmurs of the nation, and raiſed a powerful rebellion in Normandy, which was ſtifled by military executions. The Parliament of Rouen was interdicted, for not having ſhewed ſufficient vigour againſt the ſeditious.

In the mean time, the Count de Soiſſons, who had always found a retreat at Sedan, prepared himſelf for a civil war. He held a correſpondence with Spain, and was ſupported by the Dukes of Bouillon and Guiſe.

Before

Before the plot broke out, Richlieu endeavoured to engage the brave Gaſſion, who was then nothing more than a Colonel, to pretend to embrace the part of the Count; by which means he might dive into his ſecrets, and betray them to the Court. This was an unfailing opportunity for Gaſſion to raiſe his fortune; but he diſdained to be exalted by ſuch diſhonourable means. "If I had nothing to loſe but my life," ſaid he to the Miniſter, "I would give it for the ſervice of your Eminence; but I can never ſacrifice my honour."—"It is enough," replied the Cardinal; "your fortune will ſuffer by it; but you will not loſe my eſteem." Gaſſion kept the ſecret, and Richlieu, with a becoming nobleneſs of ſoul, teſtified his approbation of his conduct.

The rebels, in the mean time, got together a conſiderable army; the Marſhal de Chatillon commanded that of the King, and was defeated at Morſee, by the Count de Soiſſon. If that prince had not been killed in battle, his victory would undoubtedly have been of great conſequence. The Duke of Bouillon, to preſerve to himſelf Sedan, haſtily made deceitful terms, and entered into a new conſpiracy, while he was ſwearing inviolable fidelity. Cinquemars, a favourite of Lewis XIII. was the principal author of the plot, of which Richlieu was to be the victim.

This

This young man, being raiſed to the dignity of Grand Eſquire, owed all his fortune to the Cardinal, who had taught him the manner of captivating the King. Ambition ſtifled all ſenſe of gratitude; and he deteſted his benefactor, becauſe he pretended to govern him. He had no more real regard for the Monarch; for, ſeduced by the hope of ſupplanting the Miniſter and the Governor of the kingdom, he excited the Duke of Orleans to rebellion, and drew the Duke de Bouillon into his cabal, when they ſent an emiſſary into Spain to make a treaty, in the name of Gaſton, to open France to its enemies.

Lewis went in perſon to conquer Rouſſilon; and never did the credit of Cinquemars appear greater than in this journey. He no longer concealed any thing, and openly profeſſed his hatred of the Cardinal; he even propoſed to the King, either to have him aſſaſſinated, or driven from the Court. The King ſeemed reſolved to do the latter; and Richlieu, who was dangerouſly ill at Teraſcon, had no longer any doubt of his diſgrace; but his good fortune ſaved him from this danger. He diſcovered the treaty concluded by the factions with Spain, and gave advice of it to the King. The face of affairs ſoon changed; Cinquemars was arreſted; and he, with ſome others of his aſſociates, paid for their raſhneſs and ingratitude, by the forfeiture of their lives on a ſcaffold.

Soon after these executions, the Cardinal, having received the news of the taking of Perpignan, wrote thus to the King, who was returned to Paris:—"Sire, your enemies are dead, and your arms are in Perpignan."—Triumphant over his own enemies, rather than those of the King, but worn out by sickness, he took the road to Court, and made part of the journey in a kind of chamber, covered with damask, which his guards carried on their shoulders. The decline of his body had not at all hurt the vigour of his mind; and he still promised himself the Regency after the decease of Lewis XIII. but death put an end to all his ambitious views and his life, in the year 1642, and in the fifty-eighth of his age.

In receiving the extreme unction, he called God to witness, that, in the course of his ministry, he had never any other view than the good of religion and the state; but the voice of the public did not give him so flattering a testimony.

The Queen-mother, Mary de Medicis, died in indigence at Cologne; and Lewis did not long survive her, he dying in May, 1643, in the forty-second year of his age, and in the thirty-third of his reign.

During this reign, the human mind began to dispel the clouds of error and barbarism, which covered it. Malherbe and Corneille laid the foundation of French poetry; Des-

cartes

Richlieu's Journey to Court

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cartes baniſhed the abſurdities of the ſchools, and opened, by wiſe inveſtigations, the road to truth; while the great Chancellor Bacon, in England, cultivated that ſtem of uſeful knowledge, which afterwards throve with ſuch vigour in all parts of Europe. Gallilée in Italy demonſtrated the motion of the earth round the ſun; but prejudice blinded the multitude. The Inquiſition impriſoned Gallilée, as an impious man, becauſe he knew the heavens; and Deſcartes was accuſed of Atheiſm, becauſe he had greater ideas of God and Nature than his weak accuſers. It is ſcarcely to be credited, that the Parliament of Paris, at this time, prohibited, under pain of death, the teaching of any doctrine contrary to that of Ariſtotle. The perſecution of Urban Grandiere, a Prieſt of Loudun, condemned to the fire in 1634, for having, it is ſaid, bewitched a whole convent of religious, is a celebrated monument of the ignorance of our anceſtors. Thus ignorance dictated unjuſt laws, and made thoſe unhappy people periſh in torments, whom they falſely ſuppoſed culpable.

LEWIS XIV. born in 1638, began, in the weakneſs and troubles of a ſtormy minority, a reign that carried to the higheſt degree, the glory of the nation, and the royal power.—His mother, Ann of Auſtria, had, by act of parliament, the abſolute Regency; and the limits which Lewis XIII. had ſet at his

death, were buried in oblivion; but this was not the firſt time that the wills of Sovereigns had been annulled after their deceaſe, actual authority overpowering that which no longer exiſted.

The Queen changed the Council in what manner ſhe judged moſt proper, and appointed Cardinal Jules Mazarin prime miniſter. He became, on that account, though a foreigner, maſter of the government of the ſtate. Richlieu had been acquainted with him during the war in Italy, where Mazarin negociated for the Duke of Savoy. He had afterwards fixed him in France, as a man capable of ſeconding his views, and managing buſineſs with addreſs. The prudent Italian juſtified his choice; but his great judgment made it a difficult matter to find one to ſucceed him when he ſhould retire. The war undertaken againſt the Houſe of Auſtria was an occaſion of murmur for a long time to the nation, who bore the expences, and groaned beneath the weight of them. The plan of the late reign was ſtill purſued; and glorious victories raiſed the fame of France to a great height.

At length, after many bloody conteſts, the detail of which would fill volumes, the treaty of Weſtphalia reſtored tranquillity to one part of Europe. It ſet proper bounds to the power of the Emperor, and fixed the claims of the different Princes of Germany; at the

ſame

ſame time confirming the Proteſtants of that country in the poſſeſſion of eccleſiaſtical lands, that had been taken from them.

Though Mazarin at firſt affected as much modeſty and mildneſs as Richlieu had ſhewed haughtineſs and cruelty; yet he was the object of public hatred. They could not pardon a foreigner being poſſeſſed of that immenſe fortune which made him maſter of the ſtate, and they ridiculed his perſon, his manners, and his bad pronunciation. Ridicule in France is capable of producing many ſerious effects. Some trifling matters kindled a civil war; and Lewis XIV. who gave laws to Europe by the treaty of Weſtphalia, was obliged to leave his capital.

The Spaniards took the advantage of theſe circumſtances; and the fear of ſeeing them very ſoon in France, produced an accommodation, with which neither the Court nor the Inſurgents were ſatisfied. Mazarin, however, preſerved his place, and the Parliament its authority.

The civil wars ſoon broke out again; and the Prince of Condé, his brother, and the Duke of Longueville, his brother-in-law, obliged Mazarin to quit the kingdom.—Though Lewis XIV. had attained the age of majority, the Parliament declared the feeble Gaſton Lieutenant-general of the kingdom, who were always unſtable through character, but now fixed by the preſence of the Prince

of Condé. However, the departure of Mazarin appeaſed theſe troubles. Paris returned to its obedience, and Condé ſought an aſylum in the Low Countries, where the King of Spain made him Generaliſſimo of his army.

The heads of the rebellion in Paris diſappeared as ſoon as the King entered his capital. Lewis regulated the future conduct of his uncle Gaſton, who finiſhed his days at Blois, having never merited either the glory of a good ſubject, or the reputation of the chief of a party, being always factious, without courage or firmneſs, fearing every thing for himſelf, and nothing for thoſe who ſerved him. The famous Cardinal de Retz, who had deeply intereſted himſelf in theſe intrigues, was no longer of any conſideration in the ſtate, and, in 1679, died in his retreat. Cardinal Mazarin, the object of ſo much hatred and conſpiracy, returned to Paris in triumph, when both the people and parliament received him with great honours. The Prince of Conti married one of his nieces, and, at length, by the force of mildneſs and patience, he became as abſolute as Richlieu.

In the expedition to Flanders, Condé and Turenne encreaſed their reputation by fighting againſt each other. The firſt had the glory of ſaving Cambray, where he arrived before they had completed the inveſtiture of the city; but he loſt the battle of Dunes, which

which was followed by the taking of Dunkirk. This place was delivered to the Engliſh, agreeably to the promiſe made to Cromwell, who died ſoon after, amidſt thoſe troubles that are inſeparable from uſurpation. At length, however, France and Spain concluded a war, which had been ſo pernicious to both of them. France kept Rouſſillon and a part of Artois; the King of Spain renounced his pretenſions to Alſace; and the Infanta Maria Thereſa was given to Lewis XIV. The re-eſtabliſhment of the Prince of Condé was one of the conditions of peace, which Mazarin would not have conſented to, if the Spaniards had not appeared diſpoſed to give that Prince ſtrong Places in the Low Countries. Thus the treaty of the Pyrennees finiſhed the grand work of the Peace, which that of Weſtphalia had very much advanced; and both of them encreaſed the glory of Mazarin, a glory preferable to that of Richlieu, whoſe policy ſet Europe in a blaze, and left to his ſucceſſor the trouble of extinguiſhing the flames.

The Cardinal Mazarin, like Richlieu, died before he reached the age of ſixty, in 1661. The one was naturally proud, courageous, and exalted; the other was mild, cunning, and circumſpect. His immenſe riches were a proof of the inſatiable avarice of which he was accuſed; and his mercenary manage-

ment of the affairs of ſtate, rendered him odious in the eyes of the people.

The time was now come when the government of France was to put on a new face; for, hitherto, two all-powerful miniſters had governed with ſucceſs, without making it happy. Divided between their own intereſts and that of the nation, in procuring themſelves glory, they had left the nation poor, and leſs flouriſhing than it had been under Henry IV. They now ſaw what it was to have a King, who joined nobleneſs of ſentiment to a penetrating mind, and application to buſineſs. From the time that Lewis XIV. began to reign, he became the idol of France, and excited the admiration of Europe.

It was not expected, that a monarch of twenty-two years of age, who had loved pleaſure, and ſo long avoided the troubles of politics, and ſubmitted to the will of Mazarin, would take on himſelf the reins of government, and be capable of properly managing them; but his reſolution was taken, and he inſtantly put it in force. At the firſt council held after the death of the Miniſter, he declared he would judge for himſelf, and prohibited any thing being done without his orders. "The face of the theatre is changed," ſaid he, "I will introduce other principles into the government of my ſtate, in the

the regulation of my finances, and in the negociations without doors, than what were in the time of the late Cardinal. You now know my will, gentlemen; it is your duty to execute it." From that moment, the council aſſumed a reſpectable form, which Mazarin had in ſome degree abated, by holding it in his chamber, while he ſhaved and dreſſed himſelf, and amuſed himſelf with a bird or a monkey; but the King loved order and decency in the moſt common concerns.

It is the actions which fix the character of a man. The King, naturally fierce and fond of glory, very ſoon learned to what height he ought to be reſpected abroad. His Ambaſſador at London having been inſulted by the Miniſter from Spain, who diſputed precedence with him, he threatened Philip IV. his father-in-law, again to take up arms againſt him, if he did not make amends for this inſult. The King of Spain had the prudence, or meanneſs, to comply; and an extraordinary Ambaſſador, which he ſent expreſs to Lewis, declared publicly, that the Spaniſh Miniſters were no longer on a footing with thoſe of France.

Charles II. ſold Dunkirk to Lewis, who ſpared no expence to render it a ſtrong place, and a matter of terror and jealouſy to the Engliſh, who never pardoned Charles for a ſtep ſo contrary to the good of his country.—The finances, which Colbert had re-eſtab-

liſhed, put Lewis in a condition to form the greateſt deſigns; and he had already renewed the age of Auguſtus, by the prodigious benefactions he beſtowed on people of letters, as well foreigners as his own ſubjects.

After the death of Philip IV. it was pretended in France, that Queen Maria Thereſa of Auſtria, his daughter by the firſt marriage, had a claim on Flanders and the French county, to the excluſion of the new King of Spain, a child by the ſecond marriage. Their reſpective claims were diſcuſſed in various books publiſhed in France and Spain; but arms were to decide the diſpute. Lewis, accompanied by Marſhal de Turenne, with troops perfectly well diſciplined, made himſelf maſter, in one campaign, of almoſt all Flanders.

Theſe rapid conqueſts raiſed the envy and jealouſy of the powers of Europe, who viewed his ambition in a light dangerous to the general peace and welfare of the neighbouring kingdoms. Holland, fearing ſuch a neighbour as France, whoſe aſſiſtance had been ſo advantageous to her, ſuddenly entered into a treaty with England, and alſo with the Swedes, who had been, for a long time, friends of France, in favour of Spain, againſt whom ſhe had always fought. Thus policy broke through all alliances, and formed new ones, in ſpite of preſent intereſt. Lewis foreſaw the effects of this triple alliance,

ance, and offered peace to Spain, which was afterwards concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle, when France gave back the French county, but kept all their conqueſts in Flanders.

Lewis, exceſſively jealous of his glory, could not pardon the Hollanders for having dared to contradict his deſigns. This republic, whoſe lands were ſo barren, and whoſe abilities were ſo ſmall, was become, through induſtry and commerce, as powerful as proud. Its conqueſts, its eſtabliſhments in the Eaſt-Indies, and a prodigious navy, had made it diſpute with the Engliſh the empire of the ocean; and it had often fought for the vain honour of the flag. It ceaſed to be friends with France, when it no longer wanted its ſupport; for the Dutch policy was not very ſcrupulous in the common duties of ſociety. Lewis knew how to deſpiſe things of this nature, by demanding ſatisfaction of the States. Reſolving to ſubdue Holland, he eaſily detached from their intereſt the King of England, Charles II. who was a voluptuous and extravagant prince, and whom the want of money had rendered very tractable; and the Swedes, who were alſo gained over, renounced the triple alliance. Every meaſure being taken with as much ſecrecy as activity, war was declared and commenced. Upwards of 200,000 men were employed to conquer a little State, which had not more than 25,000 ſoldiers for its defence.

The King croſſed the Rhine, and ſpread terror and alarm through all the Dutch States.

The ſucceſs of this campaign was rapid; for three provinces, and four fortified places, were conquered in leſs than a month. Amſterdam ſaw the power of France at its gates, when the States implored the clemency of the victor. The conditions of peace, propoſed by the French, appeared dreadful to a free people, whoſe courage began to be rouſed by deſpair. They thought only of ſaving the republic, or burying themſelves under its ruins; and, for this purpoſe, they opened the dykes of the ſea, expoſing themſelves, by ſuch an inundation, to the greateſt inconveniencies. A pint of freſh water was ſold for ſix-pence; but the love of liberty, and of their country, produced the moſt heroic efforts. While Holland was thus under water, or in the hands of the French, the Dutch fleet often fought with thoſe of England and France, and ſupported the honour of the republic. Mean time, the Emperor Leopold, the King of Spain, and the greateſt part of the princes of the empire, alarmed by the conqueſts of France, united themſelves with Holland, to ſtop a torrent, which ſeemed to threaten all Europe. The King of England was forced by his Parliament to make peace; for the murmurs of the nation were univerſal againſt the conduct of Charles II. The war

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was continued by the French with unremitted ardour: two cities, and twenty-five villages, were reduced to aſhes; and all the horrors of war fell on innocent victims, of whom 25,000 periſhed, within the ſpace of two leagues, through the vain ambition of kings, and the falſe glory of heroes. Both ſides chanted *Te Deum*, when they had much more reaſon to weep than rejoice. This war, however, was finiſhed by the treaty of Nimeguen, by which the Dutch recovered all their cities; but Spain gave up the French county, and a great part of Flanders; and the Emperor gave up Friburgh.

Lewis was now at the height of his greatneſs, and in France they gave him the ſurname of Grand. Colbert had put the marine in ſo flouriſhing a condition, that the King ordered him to make all the Spaniſh veſſels lower their flags. He had in pay 60,000 ſeamen, which, at that time, were more than either England or Holland could ſupport.

The pride and power of Lewis created him almoſt as many enemies as there were princes in Europe. The moſt dangerous of all, either from his ambition or profound policy, was William, Prince of Orange, now deſpiſed by the French, becauſe he had been unfortunate in war; but they were very ſoon taught to know how great was the extent of his genius. He was the projector of the famous League, ſecretly formed at Augſ-

burgh, in 1686, and concluded at Venice the year following. The Emperor, and the greater part of the empire, the King of Spain, Holland, the Duke of Savoy, and almoſt all Italy, united againſt France. Innocent XI. as proud as Lewis, ſeconded by his intrigues thoſe of the Dutch; a Pope and a Proteſtant were thus equally zealous to humble the Moſt Chriſtian King.

As ſoon as Lewis diſcovered their deſigns to attack him, he determined to give the firſt blow. He accordingly ſent the Dauphin to take Philipſbourg, which was the key of all Germany. "My ſon," ſaid the King to him, at his departure, "in ſending you to command my armies, I give you an opportunity of diſplaying your credit to the world. Go, and convince all Europe, that, whenever I ſhall reſign my breath, they will not have occaſion to miſs me." The Dauphin ſhewed himſelf worthy of his father's confidence, and acquired glory by the taking of Philipſbourg, which occaſioned public rejoicings throughout all France.

This was only the firſt ſpark of a war, which ſoon encreaſed to a flame. The Revolution, which drove the Stuarts from the throne of England, completed the blaze. Charles II. had left the crown to James II. his brother, who was a Catholic, and conſequently odious to his people; ſtill the more ſo, as he believed himſelf abſolute, was deſirous

firous of being ſo, and paid no reſpect to the paſſion of his nation for liberty. He concerted projects of re-eſtabliſhing the Catholic religion, which the Engliſh were determined never to ſuffer, and the whole conduct of James diſpoſed them to a revolt. The imprudence of his zeal was blamed by Rome; for the ſages foreſaw that he would himſelf be the victim of it, and that, ſo far from ſerving the church, he would for ever ruin it in England.

After uſeleſs complaints, the Engliſh invited the Prince of Orange to put himſelf at their head; to which he readily conſented.—This matter was concerted with as much ſecrecy as prudence; and James, being taken by ſurpriſe, made but a feeble reſiſtance. Several officers abandoned him, and, among others, his favourite Churchill, who ſoon after immortalized himſelf under the name of the Duke of Marlborough. James was permitted to fly, and the Prince of Orange was declared King, by the title of William III.

Lewis now began an open war with England; and Holland and Spain declared againſt James. A conſiderable French fleet was ſoon got ready, which conducted James to Ireland. The French ſquadron, in 1690, defeated that of their enemy, who did not think proper to ſhew themſelves afterwards. Lewis XIV. who, at the beginning of his reign, had

ſcarcely any ſhips, was now become ſo powerful, that he preſerved the empire of the ſeas for two years. But all this aſſiſtance did not change the deſtiny of James II. and his former valour ſeemed to have forſaken him with his fortune. He was defeated by King William, at the deciſive battle of the Boyne, and, returning to France, finiſhed his days inglorioufly, but piouſly.

In the Low Countries, and in Italy, the firſt years of the war were a continued ſeries of memorable victories; but Lewis, at length, in ſpite of all his former conqueſts, no longer appeared invincible: he loſt fourteen large veſſels in 1692, after the battle of La Hogue, where Tourville, by his orders, attacked the enemy's fleet, now more numerous than the laſt. King William, although he was often defeated, knew admirably well how to repair his loſſes, and retook Namur, within ſight of an army of 80,000 men, without their being able to lend any aſſiſtance to the place. The Engliſh fleet bombarded Dieppe, Le Havre, St. Maloes, Calais, and Dunkirk. The courage of the French army diminiſhed, recruits became difficult, and the finances had been greatly reduced. The ſcourge of war was felt by the whole world, and peace ſeemed much deſired by the French monarch. By the peace of Ryſwick, which ſoon followed, the French gave up moſt of their conqueſts, William was acknowledged lawful

King

King of England, and James II. was abandoned.

The pride and inſolence of Lewis ſoon involved him in freſh troubles with other European powers. England and Holland united with the Emperor againſt France; and King William, though in a languiſhing and infirm ſtate of health, encouraged this alliance. William died, however, in the midſt of his preparations, having been a dangerous enemy to France, by his genius and policy in reſources, which were inexhauſtible. The Princeſs Anne, his ſiſter-in-law, daughter of James II. and wife of the Prince of Denmark, ſucceeded him, and at firſt followed all his ſteps, becauſe they were conformable to the views of the nation. At this time, a terrible ſtorm from all parts ſeemed to threaten France.

The Emperor's General, who began the war in Italy, was Prince Eugene of Savoy, born in France, ſon of the Count de Soiſſons, and of a niece of Cardinal Mazarin. He was known at court, in his youth, under the name of the Abbé de Savoy, and became ſo much forgotten, that, when he quitted the kingdom, in 1684, Lewis ſeemed to deſpiſe him, and the courtiers ſpoke of him as a madman, incapable of doing any thing. Never were prejudices more unjuſt, nor proved more falſe by actions. Prince Eugene, with all the qualities of a great man, could not

fail of one day making thoſe repent, who had done him ſo much injuſtice.

The famous Duke of Marlborough commanded the Engliſh and Dutch troops. His ſublime talents, both in command and in negociations, made him much to be feared. Queen Anne, the Engliſh Parliament, and the States General, all entered into his views. He had the advantage of the campaign over the Duke of Burgundy, and the Marſhal of Boufflers; the latter, one of the greateſt men of France.

The Emperor would probably have been conquered, had not Marlborough and Eugene fled to his aſſiſtance. Theſe two Generals attacked the French and Bavarian army at Blenheim, and totally defeated them.

The poverty of the French ſtate, and the miſery of its people, gradually encreaſed, and Lewis found himſelf under the cruel neceſſity of demanding peace, which was luckily promoted by intrigues carrying on in the court of London. The Ducheſs of Marlborough governed Queen Anne, while the Duke governed the ſtate. The Queen changed her favourite, and ſoon afterwards the Miniſtry, when Marlborough loſt his credit and influence at court. At length, peace was concluded at Utrecht, when Philip V. renounced his claims to the crown of France; the Duke of Savoy had Sicily, and the title of King; Spaniſh Flanders was left to the Emperor,

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and ſeveral cities were delivered to the Hollanders; England kept Gibraltar and the iſland of Minorca; and the French were obliged to demoliſh the port of Dunkirk, which had coſt them immenſe ſums. Such was the end of this unhappy war, which had reduced Lewis to the loweſt extremity.

The peace of Utrecht was concluded in 1713, and Lewis died two years afterwards, in September, 1715, having reigned ſeventy-two years. With reſpect to his character, it muſt be acknowledged, that, though in the beginning of his reign, France was torn by inteſtine diviſions, on account of the oppoſition made to the deſpotic power of Cardinal Mazarin; and, though it was marked with one of the moſt impolitic meaſures that could have been adopted, the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, yet, upon the whole, it conſtituted the moſt glorious period of the French hiſtory. The number of great men in every branch of civil and military ſcience, rendered it illuſtrious, among whom the names of Turenne, Condé, and Colbert, muſt be recorded—the orators, poets, eminent writers, and artiſts, as Boſſuet, Fenelon, Boileau, Corneille, Racine, Lebrun, and Pouſſin, the learned Madam Dacier, and the enchanting Sevigné—the protection and encouragement given to arts and ſciences, and to all perſons of diſtinguiſhed genius—all theſe circumſtances give ſome foundation for

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the compariſon that has been made between the age of Lewis XIV. in France, and that of Auguſtus in Rome. But, at the ſame time, it muſt be acknowledged, that the Monarch under whom all theſe advantages have been diſplayed, has been extolled with a degree of flattery, which is a diſgrace to ſcience, and which nothing but the moſt inexcuſable vanity in the Prince could have ſuffered. The latter part of his reign, however, was as diſgraceful as the former had been glorious, particularly in the wars carried on in Flanders againſt the Engliſh, who, under the command of the glorious Marlborough, were always victorious; ſo that, for nine years, Lewis experienced a continued ſeries of mortification and calamities. Theſe affected him ſo much, that, advanced as he was in years, he had formed the deſperate reſolution of collecting his forces, and dying at their head; but a change in the adminiſtration and ſyſtem of politics in England relieved his anxiety, and produced the peace of Utrecht.

LEWIS XV. was left an orphan, at a time when it would have been too tedious, difficult, and dangerous, to aſſemble the General Eſtates of the kingdom, to regulate the pretenſions made to the Regency. The Parliament of Paris had formerly given it to two Queens; they gave it now to the Duke of Orleans. They had ſet aſide the teſtament of Lewis

Lewis XIII. they now ſet aſide that of his ſucceſſor, Lewis XIV. Philip, Duke of Orleans, was declared abſolute maſter by the very Parliament he ſoon after ſent into exile.

The regency of this Duke, which his ſecret enemies, and the general diſorder of the finances, might naturally have rendered the moſt factious and turbulent, proved, on the contrary, the moſt peaceable and happy. That habit of obedience which the French nation had aſſumed under Lewis XIV. was at once the ſecurity of the Regent, and of the public tranquillity. A conſpiracy, projected at a diſtance by Cardinal Alberoni, was ſuppreſſed almoſt as ſoon as formed. The Parliament, which, in the minority of Lewis XIV. had raiſed a civil war about the diſpoſal of a dozen places in the Court of Requeſts, and had annulled the teſtaments of Lewis XIII. and XIV. with leſs formality than they would have done the will of an obſcure individual, had hardly the liberty of making remonſtrances when the nominal value of the coin was raiſed to thrice its former ſtandard. The moſt unjuſt edict that ever was made, that of reſtraining every inhabitant in the kingdom from keeping above five hundred livres in ready money by him at a time, excited not the leaſt emotion. The total want of current ſpecie for the uſe of the people—a whole people preſſing in crowds to an office, to receive the money neceſſary

neceſſary to procure the conveniencies of life, in exchange for notes univerſally cried down, and yet univerſally diſtributed—the preſſing to death a number of citizens in the crowd, and the exhibition of their dead bodies before the royal palace, produced not the leaſt appearance of ſedition. In ſhort, even the famous project of *Law*, which ſeemed calculated at once to ruin the regency and the ſtate, was, in fact, the ſupport of both, and that by unforeſeen conſequences.

The ſpirit of avarice, which it excited among perſons of all conditions, even from the very loweſt of the people, up to magiſtrates, biſhops, and princes, diverted their minds from all attention to public good, or the political views of ambition, by engroſſing them wholly with the fear of loſs, and the hope of gain. It was a new and extraordinary kind of play, in which the people were engaged againſt each other, and enriched many families at the expence of others, whom it reduced to beggary. The origin of this phrenzy, preceded and followed by ſo many others, was ſimply this: A Scotchman, named John Law, a man who had no other profeſſion than that of a gameſter and calculator of chances, having been obliged to fly his country for murder, had long ſince formed a plan of a company, which might pay off the debts of the ſtate by notes, and reimburſe itſelf by its profits. The French

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nation had a debt of two hundred millions to diſcharge, the peace had left the government at leiſure, and both prince and people were fond of novelties.

In 1716, Law eſtabliſhed a bank in his own name, which ſoon becoming general, he united it with the Miſſiſippi company, from whoſe commerce, at that time, people were given to expect great advantages. Seduced by the allurements of gain, the public bought up the joint ſtock of the company and bank with great avidity. The wealth of the kingdom, which had long been confined in private hands, in diſtruſt of public credit, now circulated in great profuſion.

The bank was declared royal in 1718, and took upon it the management of the trade to Senegal. Every thing was now in the hands of the Scotchman; and the finances of the whole kingdom depended on a trading company. This company appeared, indeed, to be eſtabliſhed on ſuch vaſt foundations, that a ſhare in its ſtock roſe to above twenty times its original value. The frequent riſe and fall of the company's ſtocks, afforded an opportunity for obſcure perſons to make immenſe fortunes, many of them becoming, in a few months, richer than ſeveral princes.

The Regent, however, ſoon found himſelf incapable of managing ſo immenſe and complicated a machine, the rapidity of whoſe motion bore it away, and rendered it abſolutely

lutely ungovernable. The late financiers, and the great bankers in conjunction, exhauſted the royal bank, by drawing on it for conſiderable ſums. Every one wanted to convert his notes into ſpecie; but the diſproportion was enormous, and public credit dropped all at once.

In 1720, the æra of the ruin of all the private fortunes of individuals, and of the finances of the kingdom, Law was appointed Comptroller General of the Finances; and, in a ſhort time after, he was converted from a Scotchman into a Frenchman, by naturalization; from a Proteſtant into a Catholic; from a mere adventurer into a lord, poſſeſſed of the fineſt landed eſtate in the kingdom, and from a banker into a miniſter of ſtate. At laſt, loaded with the public execrations, he was the ſame year obliged to fly the country he had attempted to enrich, but had entirely ruined, taking with him only about two thouſand pounds ſterling. He lived ſome time in London, on the liberality of the Marquis de Laſſay, and, at laſt, died at Venice, in a ſtate little removed from indigence.

In the year 1723, the Duke of Orleans took on himſelf the title of Prime Miniſter, becauſe, the King being now come of age, the Regency was at an end. However, he died ſoon after, as did the Duke of Bourbon. Condé immediately ſucceeded to the miniſtry; but he was ſoon obliged to make way to Cardinal

dinal Fleury, who, at the age of ſeventy-three, took upon him the care of government. For ſixteen years, during the time of his adminiſtration, every thing proſpered with him, ſtill preſerving, to almoſt ninety years of age, a clear head, and an unimpaired capacity for buſineſs.

In the year 1739, one Jenkins, maſter of a veſſel that traded to the Spaniſh main, preſented himſelf at the bar of the Engliſh Houſe of Commons. He was a plain, honeſt man, who had never been concerned in any illicit trade, but had been met by a Spaniſh guarda-coſta, in ſome part of America that was prohibited to the Engliſh. The Spaniſh captain ſeized the ſhip, put the crew in irons, ſlit the noſe, and cut off the ears of the maſter. In this condition, Capt. Jenkins appeared before the Parliament, and informed them of his misfortune with that ſimplicity and openneſs which is peculiar to a ſailor. "Gentlemen," ſaid he, "when they had thus disfigured me, I was threatened with death: I expected it, and recommended my ſoul to God, and my revenge to my country." Theſe words, expreſſed ſo naturally, excited a general cry of compaſſion and indignation. The people of London inſiſted upon having *a free ſea, or a war*.

Accordingly, about the end of the year 1739, war was formally declared againſt Spain. France, whoſe navy was far from being on a reſpectable

reſpectable footing, did not act openly, but privately aſſiſted the Spaniards as much as lay in their power.

Such was the ſituation of affairs, when the death of Charles VI. gave riſe to freſh troubles in Europe, and brought forward new ſcenes of deſolation, in ſettling the ſucceſſion of the Houſe of Auſtria. In 1741, the Spaniſh court ſent over ſeveral bodies of troops to Italy, under the command of the Duke of Montemar. The court of Spain demanded a paſſage for their troops through Switzerland into Italy, which was refuſed. The Swiſs cantons ſell ſoldiers to all parties, and defend their country againſt all; and, though their government is pacific, the people are all warriors, which rendered ſuch a neutrality reſpectable.

Several ſtruggles were made on all ſides, and, in the midſt of them, Lewis XV. declared war againſt the King of England, and the Queen of Hungary. Don Philip, at the head of 20,000 Spaniards, and the Prince of Conti, followed by 20,000 Frenchmen, ſeverally inſpired their troops with that ſpirit of confidence, and of reſolute courage, which were neceſſary for penetrating into Piedmont, where one battalion may ſtop a whole army; where they are expoſed every moment to fight among rocks, precipices, and torrents, and where the difficulties of convoys reaching them, was none of the ſmalleſt they had to encounter.

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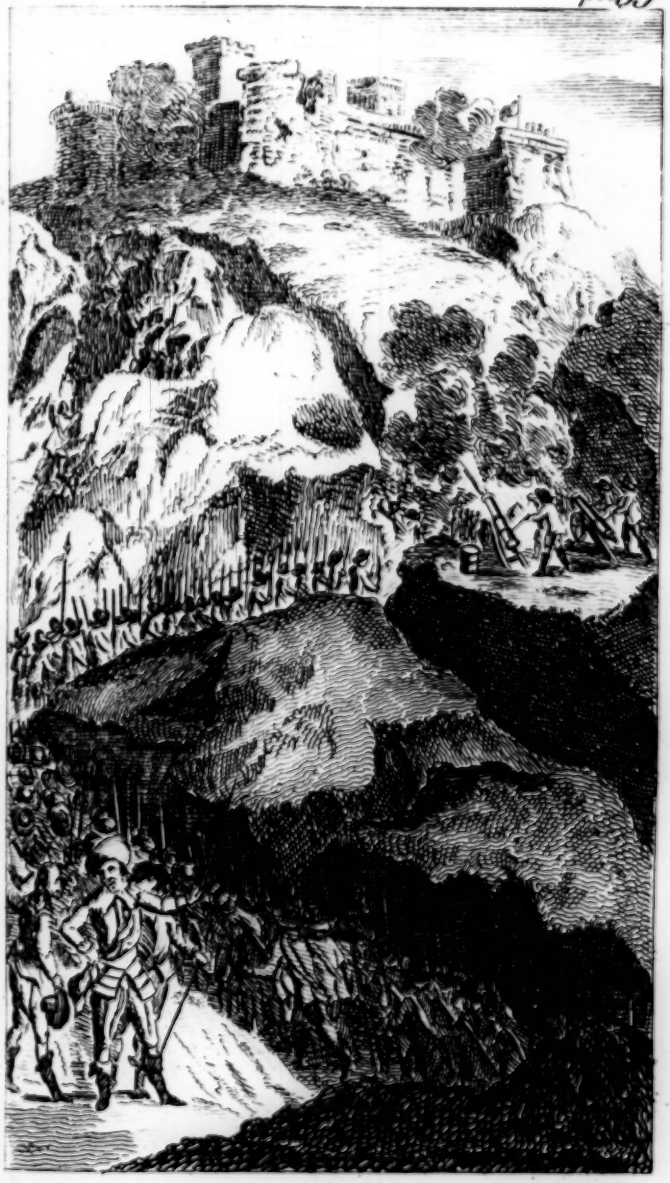

Conti forcing the Passage of the Alps

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On the 1st of April, 1744, the Infant Don Philip, and the Prince of Conti, paſſed the river Varo, which falls from the Alps into the ſea of Genoa, before Nice. The whole country of Nice ſurrendered; but, before they could advance further, they were obliged to attack the intrenchments near Villa Franca, and, after them, the fortreſs of Montalban, ſituated among the rocks, which formed a long chain of almoſt inacceſſible ramparts. They could not march but in defiles, and through hollow ways, where they were expoſed to the artillery of the enemy, which annoyed them alſo when clambering from rock to rock. Notwithſtanding theſe dangers, the Prince of Conti preſented himſelf before the rampart of Piedmont, near Villa Franca. This was about two hundred toiſes in height, and was thought by the King of Sardinia to be inacceſſible.

The Bailiff of Givri, in open day, ſcaled a rock, on which two thouſand Piedmonteſe were entrenched; and the brave Chevert, who was the firſt that mounted the rampart at the ſiege of Prague, was among the foremoſt who reached the top. This ſcene, however, was more bloody than that of Prague, as the enemy had there no cannon; but here the Piedmonteſe kept playing theirs conſtantly upon the aſſailants. The King of Sardinia was in perſon behind theſe entrenchments, endeavouring to animate his troops. Lieutenant-colonel de Poiſou leaped into the firſt entrenchment,

where he was followed by the grenadiers; and, what is hardly credible, they paſſed cloſe by the embraſures of the enemy's cannon, at the inſtant that the pieces, being fired, were running back with their uſual motion. They loſt about two thouſand men in this aſſault; but not one of the Piedmonteſe eſcaped. The King of Sardinia, in deſpair, wanted to throw himſelf into the midſt of the aſſailants; and they kept him back with much difficulty.

During the attack on Chatteau-dauphin, it was found neceſſary to carry what was called the Barricades, a paſſage about eighteen feet broad, between two mountains, which reached the clouds. Into this hollow the King of Sardinia had turned the courſe of the river Sture, which watered the neighbouring valley. Three entrenchments, and a covered way beyond the river, defended the poſt of the barricades. After this, they had to reduce the caſtle of Pemont, built, at an immenſe expence, on the top of a barren rock, in the middle of the valley of Sture. The French and Spaniards carried them, almoſt without ſtriking a blow, by putting thoſe who defended them between two fires.

We ſhall now quit the tranſactions on the Continent, to ſee what was paſſing on the wide ocean. The Engliſh fleet took Louiſbourg in America from the French, whoſe Eaſt India company was thereby conſiderably injured, as they had undertaken to farm the fur-

fur-trade of Canada; ſo that their ſhips, on their return from India, often came and watered at Louiſbourg. Two large ſhips belonging to the company, arrived there immediately after it was taken, and conſequently fell into the hands of the Engliſh. This was not all—a fatality, not leſs ſingular, further enriched the new poſſeſſors of Cape Breton—a large ſhip, named L'Eſperance, which had eſcaped the privateers, thought, like the others, that ſhe ſhould be ſafe in the harbour of Louiſbourg, where, like the reſt, ſhe fell a victim to the Engliſh. The lading of theſe three ſhips, which came from the heart of Aſia only to ſurrender themſelves in this manner, amounted to 25,000,000 of livres. If war be allowed to be a game of chance, we may ſay that the Engliſh, in one year, won at this game about three millions ſterling.

"London is full of merchants and ſeafaring men," ſays Voltaire, "who intereſt themſelves much more in ſucceſſes at ſea, than in all that paſſes in Germany or Flanders. The tranſports of joy were unparalleled in that city, when the ſame ſhip Centurion, which had been ſo celebrated for ſailing round the world, arrived in the Thames, and brought the news of the victory off Finiſterre, gained by the ſame Anſon, (who, with great juſtice, had been made a vice-admiral) in conjunction with Admiral Warren." Twenty-two waggons arrived in London, ſoon after, with the gold,

gold, ſilver, and other effects, taken from the French fleet. The loſs of theſe effects, together with the ſhips, was eſtimated at more than twenty millions of French livres.

France, at this time, 1747, as Voltaire informs us, had but *one* man of war remaining; and the miſmanagement of Cardinal Fleury, in neglecting the marine, was acknowledged in its fulleſt extent. This fault is not eaſily repaired: ſometimes an excellent land army has been formed in two or three years by experienced and aſſiduous officers; but it takes a long time to eſtabliſh a formidable maritime force.

In 1748, the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was concluded, when France re-eſtabliſhed itſelf in the ſame manner as after the peace of Utrecht, and became ſtill more flouriſhing. Lewis XIV. was the firſt who kept up thoſe numerous forces which obliged the other princes to make the ſame efforts; ſo that, after this period, the Chriſtian powers of Europe had about a million of men under arms, perhaps to the detriment of arts and neceſſary profeſſions, but particularly to agriculture. They flattered themſelves, that, for a long time, there would be no aggreſſor, becauſe all the ſtates were armed to defend themſelves; but they flattered themſelves in vain.

Europe never enjoyed ſuch happy times as from the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748,

to about the year 1755. Trade flouriſhed from Peterſburgh even to Cadiz, the fine arts were every where reſpected, a general harmony prevailed among all nations, and Europe reſembled a large family reconciled after a quarrel. A ſlight diſpute, however, between France and England, concerning ſome deſert lands about Nova Scotia, gave riſe to a new ſyſtem of politics among all the ſovereigns of Europe. This quarrel was the fruit of the negligence of all the miniſters at the treaty of Utrecht. By that treaty, France had ceded to England, Nova Scotia, adjoining to Canada, with all its ancient limits; but they had not ſpecified what were thoſe limits, to which indeed they were ſtrangers.

Hoſtilities ſoon commenced in America; and, in Europe the French laid ſiege to, and took the iſland of Minorca, notwithſtanding Admiral Byng was ſent to relieve it; but this was the laſt of the French ſucceſſes againſt England, if we except ſome few advantages gained in Germany.

The firſt loſs of the French in India, was that of Chandanagor, an important poſt, of which the French India company were in poſſeſſion, towards the mouth of the Ganges, from whence they drew their beſt merchandize; and, after this capture, the Engliſh never ceaſed ruining the commerce of the French in India.

At

At the ſame time that the fleets and armies of England had thus ruined the French in Aſia, they alſo drove them out of Africa. The French were maſters of the river Senegal, which is a branch of the Niger. There they had forts, and carried on a great trade in elephants teeth, gold duſt, gum arabic, ambergreaſe, and particularly a traffic of negroes.—The Engliſh took all the forts the French had built in thoſe countries, and more than three millions of livres value, in the richeſt commodities. The laſt eſtabliſhment that remained in the poſſeſſion of the French in Africa, was Goree, which ſurrendered at diſcretion. Thus they loſt all footing in that quarter of the world.

In America, they had ſuſtained much greater loſſes. Without entering here into the detail of an hundred ſkirmiſhes, and the loſs of all their forts, one after the other, let it ſuffice to ſay, that Louiſbourg was a ſecond time taken by the Engliſh. Laſtly, at the very time that the Engliſh entered Surat, at the mouth of the Indus, they took alſo Quebec, and all Canada, to the bottom of North America; and thoſe troops which had ventured a battle in the defence of Quebec, were beaten, and almoſt deſtroyed, in ſpite of the efforts of General Montcalm, who was killed in the engagement, and much regretted in France. Thus one thouſand five hundred leagues of land, were, in one day, loſt to France.

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At the time that the Engliſh thus attacked the French on the Continent, they alſo diſlodged them from moſt of the iſlands. Guadaloupe, though ſmall, yet flouriſhing, and where the fineſt ſugars are manufactured, fell into their hands, without a ſtroke in its defence. They alſo took Martinico, which was the richeſt and beſt colony the French poſſeſſed.

France could not ſuffer theſe great diſaſters without loſing likewiſe all the ſhips which they ſent to prevent them. Scarce was there a fleet ſent out to ſea, but it was either taken or deſtroyed. They built armed veſſels with the greateſt hurry; and they worked for the Engliſh, to whom they ſoon became a prey.

Affairs were in this deplorable condition, both by ſea and land, when a man of an active and bold genius, but prudent, having views as great as thoſe of Marſhal Belleiſle, but with more ſpirit, obſerved that France could not alone repair ſo many enormous loſſes. He found means to engage Spain to ſupport the quarrel, by making it the common cauſe of all the branches of the Houſe of Bourbon. By theſe means, Spain and Auſtria were joined with France, in the ſame intereſt. Portugal being, in effect, an Engliſh province, from which ſhe drew fifteen millions yearly, the Spaniards thought it neceſſary to begin at this corner; and it was determined by Don Carlos, King of Spain (by the death of his brother Ferdinand)

Ferdinand) to enter that kingdom. This was perhaps one of the beſt ſchemes in politics, of which modern hiſtory makes mention; but even this did not ſucceed; for the Engliſh repulſed the Spaniards, and ſaved Portugal.

The Havannah, built upon the north coaſt of Cuba, the greateſt American iſland, at the gulph of Mexico, is the rendezvous of this new world. The harbour, as large as it was ſecure, could contain one thouſand veſſels; and it was defended by three forts, which commanded a croſs fire, and rendered the landing impoſſible to enemies. The Earl of Albemarle, and Admiral Pocock, attacked the iſland, but took great care of approaching the forts. They deſcended upon a diſtant flat ſhore, which was imagined impoſſible to be landed on. The moſt conſiderable part of the iſland they beſieged by land, which they took, and forced the town, the forts, and all the adjacent iſlands, to ſurrender, with twelve ſhips of war which were in the port, and twenty-ſeven veſſels laden with treaſure. They found in the town twenty-four millions of livres, in ſpecie, which was divided between the conquerors, who ſet aſide the ſixteenth part of this booty for the poor.

The Engliſh, not content with having taken the Havannah in the Mexican ſea, and the iſland of Cuba, extended their conqueſts to the Philippine iſlands, in the Indian ſea, which are very near the antipodes of Cuba. Theſe

iſlands

iſlands are not much leſs than thoſe of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and would be richer, if they were well managed, one of them having gold mines, and their coaſts producing pearls. The great Acapulco veſſel, loaded to the value of three millions of piaſtres, arrived at Manilla, the capital, which the Engliſh took, with the iſles and this ſhip, notwithſtanding the aſſurances given by the Jeſuit, in the name of St. Potamienne, (the patron of the town) that Manilla would never be taken.

Thus the war, which impoveriſhed other nations, enriched one part of England, while the other groaned under the weight of the moſt rigorous taxes, as well as all other nations engaged in the war. The French were at this time more unfortunate, all their reſources being exhauſted. Almoſt all the citizens, by the King's example, converted their plate into money; and the principal towns, as well as ſome ſocieties, agreed to furniſh men of war at their own expence. Theſe ſhips, however, were not yet built; and, had they been ready, there were not ſeamen ſufficient to man them.

In this diſaſtrous ſituation, which diſcouraged all orders of the kingdom, the Duke de Praſlin, then miniſter of foreign affairs, was ingenious and happy enough to conclude a peace, the negociation for which had been ſet on foot by the Duke de Choiſeul, miniſter

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of the war department. This was called the peace of Fontainbleau, which was ſigned in 1763.

France loſt, in the courſe of this horrible war, a great part of the flower of its youth, more than half of the current money of the kingdom, its navy, commerce, and credit. It was believed, that it would have been very eaſy to prevent all theſe misfortunes, by giving up to the Engliſh a little piece of litigated ground towards Canada. But ſome ambitious perſons, to make themſelves neceſſary and important, plunged France into this fatal war. The ſelfiſhneſs of two or three individuals is ſufficient to deſolate all Europe. France had ſo preſſing an occaſion for this peace, that they conſidered the concluders of it as the ſaviours of their country. The national debt was greater than that of Lewis XIV. for the extraordinary expences of this war amounted, in one year, to four hundred millions.

We muſt now return back a few years, to take notice of an incident by no means a novelty in the hiſtory of France. On the 5th of January, 1757, the King was ſtabbed in the court of Verſailles, in the preſence of his ſon, and in the midſt of his guards, and the great officers of the crown. A miſerable wretch, named Robert François Damiens, born in a village near Arras, had been a conſiderable time a ſervant in ſeveral houſes in Paris: he was a man whoſe gloomy and fiery diſpoſition had

had always bordered upon madneſs. The general murmurs he had heard in all public places, in the grand hall of the palace, and elſewhere, heated his imagination. The aſſaſſin was furniſhed with a ſpring knife, at one end carrying a long, ſharp-pointed blade, and, at the other, a pen-knife, about four inches in length. He waited for the moment when the King ſhould ſtep into his coach to go to Trianon. It was near ſix in the evening, quite duſky, and exceedingly cold. Almoſt all the courtiers wore cloaks, which, by corruption, were called *redingottes*. Damiens, thus dreſſed, proceeded towards the guards, and, in paſſing, run againſt the Dauphin; he then forced his way through the body guards and one hundred Swiſs, accoſted the King, and ſtabbed him with the penknife in the fifth rib; he then put his knife into his pocket again, and remained with his hat upon his head. The King, finding himſelf wounded, turned about; and, ſeeing this ſtranger, who was covered, and whoſe eyes ſtared wildly, he ſaid, "This is the man who ſtabbed me; arreſt him, but do him no harm."

Happily, the King's wound was but ſlight; but the general alarm was great; and fears, ſuſpicions, and intrigues, multiplied at court. Damiens acted under the ſame illuſion as Ravilliac, and died in the ſame torments.

Scarcely was the peace ſigned, when, notwithſtanding the almoſt frantic joy it occaſioned throughout the kingdom, a moſt formidable oppoſition to the court broke forth; and even the officers of juſtice, under an immediate dependance on the crown, refuſed to regiſter the King's edict in the parliament of Paris, for continuing ſome taxes, (which ſhould have been aboliſhed at the end of the war) for impoſing new ones, and for veſting a power in the King to redeem the public debts at twenty years purchaſe. The example of the parliament of Paris was followed by almoſt all the parliaments of France, whoſe remonſtrances upon this occaſion would do honour to the moſt diſtinguiſhed patriots, in the freeſt conſtitutions of any civil government upon earth.

As the latent ſeeds of the internal commotions had undoubtedly haſtened the negociations for peace, ſo now their maturity ſerved to guarantee the powers of Europe from any hoſtile deſigns of the court of France, for ſome years at leaſt; but they produced no change in favour of the people; as the parliaments, after repeated ſtruggles in defence of their violated rights, in which they went ſo far as to proceed againſt their governors as public criminals, were at length obliged to ſubmit to thoſe irreſiſtible miniſters of deſpotiſm—the military.

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In the year 1765, a domeſtic event interrupted the uſual gaiety of the court of Verſailles, and involved the whole kingdom in a deep and univerſal ſorrow: the Dauphin of France, father of the preſent King, died at Fontainbleau, December 20th, in the thirty-ſeventh year of his age, leaving the character of a good-natured man, too much attached indeed to the prieſthood, and particularly to the Jeſuits, whoſe ſociety, it is conjectured, he would have reſtored in France, had he lived to aſcend the throne; but the moral tenour of his conduct gave the people room to hope that they ſhould be freed at leaſt from the capricious government of lewd women.

In June, 1769, the Queen died, after a lingering illneſs, univerſally regretted by all ranks of people throughout the kingdom of France.

One circumſtance made this loſs yet more deeply felt. It had been obſerved, that the King ſtill permitted his ruling paſſion to get the better of his reaſon; but, as he was now in the decline of life, decency prevented him from openly taking to his court any new miſtreſs while the Queen lived. However, ſhe was hardly buried, when the vile flatterers of a voluptuous prince put every ſtratagem in force, to fix a patroneſs for themſelves in the palace of Verſailles; in which, to the diſgrace of their royal maſter, they ſucceeded, even beyond their expectations. This favourite

was Madam Barré, who, under the direction of the infamous Duke d'Aiguillon, and the Chancellor Maripau, ſecretly regulated all the motions of the infatuated monarch, and whom we may not improperly ſtile the curſe of France.

On the 27th of April, 1774, the King, being then at Trianon, was ſeized with ſhivering fits, ſickneſs, and pains in his back. The next day, he was removed, by his own deſire, to Verſailles; but it does not appear, that the phyſicians of his court had the leaſt ſuſpicion of the ſmall-pox, at the commencement of his illneſs, as his diſorder was treated contrary to all the eſtabliſhed rules of modern practice in ſuch caſes. No wonder, therefore, that nature ſunk under the operations of copious bleedings and bliſters, which had been adviſed, on the ſuppoſition that the diſeaſe was a putrid fever. The eruption of the ſmall-pox appeared on the 29th, in the evening, to the ſurpriſe of the whole court; and, from this moment, very little hopes were entertained of his recovery. Every preparation, therefore, was made for the awful change. On the 9th of May, the phyſicians pronounced the fatal ſentence. The laſt rites of the Romiſh church were adminiſtered, in the preſence of the princes of the blood, and the great officers of ſtate; and the heralds were ſummoned to approach the chamber of the dying monarch, two to announce his death, which happened

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on the 10th, and two to proclaim the acceſſion of his ſucceſſor.

Thus died Lewis XV. in the 64th year of his age, and in the 59th of his reign. It is difficult to draw the character of this prince, with preciſion, at this period; for the ſecret motives of the moſt important tranſactions of ſovereigns are ſeldom made known till many years after their death; when the ſame inevitable fate having overtaken the miniſters who acted principal parts with them, on their political theatre, their ſtate-papers are made public, and new lights are thrown on the general hiſtory of the times in which they lived. Some late diſcoveries of this kind, to which credulity and party animoſity have lent the ſeal of authenticity, ſhould make writers extremely cautious how they draw the characters of men who have made any conſiderable figure in life. With reſpect to Lewis XV. there can be no doubt, that he was a man of good natural abilities, and was of an humane and benevolent diſpoſition. The ſenſibility of a delicate ſoul was often conſpicuous in his private actions; but every principle, as well as the practice of the ſocial virtues, was abſorbed by accuſtoming himſelf to the voice of adulation, and by an unconquerable attachment to debilitating ſenſuality. He was the abſolute maſter of every individual in his extenſive dominions, except himſelf, and his ſtate miſtreſſes, Pompadour and Barré; but,

having no power over himſelf, he ſuffered theſe intriguing women to gain an entire aſcendancy over him, and to place and diſplace the great officers of ſtate, the generals of his armies, and even the magiſtracy, at pleaſure. The ſource of theſe evils was a melancholy turn of mind, which encreaſed upon him ſoon after the death of Cardinal Fleury, and at times reduced him ſo low, as to make him conſider life as an inſupportable burthen. To chaſe away this gloom, unhappily, he had recourſe to women and wine; and, for the misfortune of France, the chief paſſion of his miſtreſſes was unbounded ambition.

LEWIS XVI.

We are now proceeding to give the hiſtory of a reign, the moſt ſingular in the annals of France, or perhaps in thoſe of any other nation in Europe. We ſhall therefore be as particular in this buſineſs as the narrow limits preſcribed us will permit.

The French nation has, for ſeveral centuries, been ſubject to arbitrary laws, which at once lay heavy on the lives and fortunes of the citizens. The people, who are every thing in free ſtates, and nothing in deſpotic empires, were enſlaved by ſuch a multitude of particular tyrannies, that its pureſt ſubſtance was diſſipated in impoſts, levied by violence, by addreſs, by ſuperſtition, or by privileges.

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The King of France alone levied taxes to a greater amount than many mighty princes of Europe united. The clergy reaped, free of all expence, the fifth of the net produce of the terreſtrial produce of the kingdom; it poſſeſſed alſo immenſe eſtates, and contributed nothing but gratuitous gifts, which it impoſed upon itſelf at pleaſure. The humiliating rights of the feudal ſyſtem gave the nobles a kind of revenue, which was a real impoſt upon agriculture, and a ſource of innumerable vexations; and, though poſſeſſed of prodigious property, they conſidered themſelves exempt from advancing any thing to the public charges, the weight of which fell altogether upon the people.

In the mean time, the apparent facility with which the people paid ſuch conſiderable impoſitions, encouraged government to invent new ones. The expences of the court were arbitrary; and the ſubſtance of the plebeian order was, by long-eſtabliſhed cuſtom, ſquandered away upon the moſt pompous trifles. The throne was beſieged by a multitude of craving men, and of ſelf-intereſted women, upon whom, under various pretences, the treaſures of the ſtate were laviſhed. Deſtructive wars, undertaken with levity, and often for the ſole advantage of a few individuals, had been, for two entire reigns, accumulating the public calamities; and the nation, affrighted at the condition of the finances, had nothing

before her eyes, but the diſcouraging proſpect of bankruptcy.

The fruits of the reign of Lewis XIV. have been, on one hand, the conqueſt of ſome provinces, the perfection of the fine arts, a ſtage ſuperior to that of Athens, a taſte and an urbanity, which have ſerved as models to every other court; and, above all, the union of the ſeveral parts, before unconnected, of the government, and of the empire. On the other hand, the loſs of five or ſix hundred thouſand men, who periſhed in different wars; that of five or ſix hundred thouſand more, who fled the kingdom, and carried with them, all over Europe, the arts which he had favoured, and a hatred to his name; an immenſe debt, horrible calamities towards the latter end of his reign, and a degree of miſery, ſuch as no modern people ever experienced. His armies, which, for ſome time, had been formidable to foreign ſtates, were no longer formidable to any but his own ſubjects. Ten thouſand ſlaves, laced and titled, were his guards; and this apparatus of royalty, ſo well adapted to dazzle the vulgar, only proclaimed the enormous diſtance at which he ſet himſelf from his people.

Lewis XV. found the machine of deſpotiſm wound up; and all that he had to do, was to let it run its revolutions. Under his ſway, the court was every thing, and the kingdom nothing. The ſale of officers, and of nobility,

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was encreaſed to a degree that was ridiculous. Religious diſputes, the moſt abſurd of all, becauſe nobody underſtands them, for thirty years, diſhonoured this weak and inſignificant reign. The honour of the French arms was, for ſome time, well ſupported; but afterwards, wars were undertaken without reaſon, continued without conduct, and terminated without glory. While taxes and loans were draining the ſources of agriculture, commerce was oppreſſed by innumerable reſtraints. Dejected Induſtry went to look for, in other climes, the encouragements and the recompences due to her exertions. The government thought of nothing but maintaining its influence, the miniſters of nothing but intrigue, the court of nothing but pillage, and the grandees of nothing but gratifications and employments.

In this reign, however, the ſpirit of liberty began to ſhew itſelf. Books croſſed every frontier in the kingdom; they entered every houſe; and, at length, the tired Inquiſition ceaſed to perſecute them. The moſt violent and able adverſaries of the freedom of the preſs, the Jeſuits, had diſappeared; and, after them, none dared to employ the ſame deſpotiſm and perſeverance. When the minds of the French were once turned towards inſtructive reading, they extended their attention to the myſteries of governments, and their ears began to be accuſtomed to the ſweet and flattering ſound of the word *liberty*.

Such was the diſpoſition of the public mind, when the crown of France deſcended to Lewis XVI. His heart was good; he felt an attachment to his people, and a repugnance to be a tyrant; proofs of which he gave, as often as he ſpoke and acted for himſelf. From his youth, he had declared his taſte for the reformation of abuſes; and his courtiers trembled at the idea of it. But the cuſtom of the court of France, as well as in ſome other courts, was to keep the heirs to the throne at a diſtance from all knowledge of affairs of ſtate, in order to impoſe on them the more eaſily, and to govern in their names. Hence have principally ariſen the troubles of Lewis XVI.

The expences of the American war, joined to the debts of the King's brothers, which he was weak enough to pay, exhauſted the public treaſury. Neckar was put at its head, and his aim was popularity. He avoided the odium of new taxes, he made loans, and truſted the payment of their intereſt to the uncertain reſources of œconomy. He publiſhed his famous *Compte rende*, in which he pretends to demonſtrate, that, under his adminiſtration, the revenues of the ſtate ſurpaſſed its expences. It has long been a diſpute, whether that book contained truths or errors, and whether its author was an able ſtateſman, or an empyric in politics. Opinion now inclines to the latter ſide;

ſide; but, at leaſt, there remains to Neckar the reputation of an honeſt man.

In a ſhort time, the diſaffected ranged themſelves into three parties. The firſt was the ariſtocratic party, who were reſolved to ſupport, at all hazards, the ſeparation of the ſtates into three chambers, and the reſpective veto of each chamber on the others. The ſecond was the moderate, or middle party, who, though averſe to the diſtinction of three ſeparate orders, wiſhed for a Britiſh conſtitution. The third was the moſt conſiderable and triumphant democratic party. As it will be impoſſible for us, in the narrow limits preſcribed to this work, to give a detail of all the irregularities committed by each party, we ſhall confine ourſelves to relate only the moſt important and intereſting events.

All regal, all judicial, all municipal government, was ſoon at an end in the city of Paris; and one univerſal panic, dread of ſlaughter from the army, and of plunder from thieves and banditti, had ſeized the whole body of the people. The Pariſians ſoon preſented that extraordinary ſcene, rare even in civil commotions, of an hundred thouſand individuals animated by one common ſoul.

On the 13th of July, 1790, the temporary bodies of the electors of repreſentatives, took the command in their ſeveral diſtricts, and were obeyed more implicitly than Lewis the Fourteenth, in the zenith of his power. The

Gardes Françoiſes offered their ſervices, and were accepted. Thirty thouſand citizens, unaccuſtomed to arms, were armed, and trained to ſome appearance of diſcipline, in twenty-four hours. A green cockade was firſt taken, as the emblem of Hope, and then rejected for the ſince-famous national cockade, red and blue, the colours of the arms of Paris, intermixed with white, the old national colour.

The next day, a day for ever memorable in the annals of France, the newly-formed army, after taking arms from the Garde Meuble and the Invalids, who made no reſiſtance, marched to ſummon De Launay, the governor of the Baſtile, to lay down his arms; and it is ſaid, that he gave them ambiguous hopes of compliance. A number of Pariſians then came to the gates, to demand arms and ammunition, when De Launay admitted them, and, as ſoon as they were within the firſt court, is generally ſaid to have fired on them.

This act of treachery, from a man ſo unpopular as the governor of an odious priſon, and ſuſpected beſides of defrauding and ſtarving his priſoners, enflamed the public revenge to a degree that blood itſelf could hardly expiate; but, as Launay was not ſuffered to live to defend himſelf, it is impoſſible to know whether he could have explained or extenuated this apparent treachery. The fortreſs was attacked with that energy which reſults from deſpair; and, to the aſtoniſhment of all mili-

tary men, thoſe ſeemingly inacceſſible towers and ramparts yielded, in two hours, to a volunteer army, ſcarce one of whom had ever beheld a ſiege before. De Launay was dragged to the Place de Greve, murdered by the mob; and the ſavage cuſtom of inſulting the laſt remains of the dead, and exhibiting their heads upon pikes, as the Deſpot of Conſtantinople exhibits the heads of the diſgraced viziers, firſt commenced in this inſtance. If he broke the laws of war, as a criminal he deſerved it: but the example has been dreadful.

The major of the Baſtile ſhared the ſame fate. The new-formed ſoldiers of democracy loudly exclaimed, "Let us hang the whole garriſon!" But the French guards, who had once been the ſoldiers of monarchy, had not forgotten their old monarchial and military honour: they begged mercy for thoſe ſoldiers, who had once ſerved under the ſame banners with themſelves, and they were too uſeful allies to be refuſed.

The Prevot des Marchands, M. de Fleſſelles, had been, in the mean time, detected in a correſpondence with the court. He was turned out of his office by the committee of electors, ſhot, as they were conveying him to priſon, and his body was diſmembered in the ſame manner.

Several other murders having been committed by the malcontents, and danger now ap-

approaching to every one's door, the National Aſſembly were rouſed into action, and, aſſuming courage from exceſs of fear, paſſed a a ſevere law, on the plan of our riot-act, ordering the municipal magiſtrates to proclaim martial law, whenever the mob proceeded to outrage, and adding the formidable emblem of a red flag to be hung out from the Town-houſe.

The National Aſſembly, now enjoying a few moments of peace, proceeded quietly to determine, that the election of deputies ſhould be made by the citizens at large, and no longer by the three ſeparate orders, whoſe very names were now entirely aboliſhed. The debates on the qualification for electors gave ſome ſatisfaction to the friends of property and law, as it was agreed, that ſome qualification, though a very ſlender one, ſhould be requiſite to vote in the primary aſſemblies; that the men thus entitled to vote ſhould be regiſtered under the name of the Active Citizens, and that a qualification ſomewhat larger ſhould be required of thoſe who were choſen electors.

All titles of nobility were annihilated, and all monaſtic eſtabliſhments were ſuppreſſed for ever, and their lands ſeized on, allowing, however, the preſent friars and nuns to obſerve their monaſtic vows; and granting to nuns the ſpecial indulgence not to be removed from the convents they then reſided in, without their conſent and free choice.

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They voted away all the territorial poſſeſſions of the church, giving to all churchmen, in return, penſions much ſmaller than their former revenues.

A grand confederation had already been voted to take place on the 14th of July, to bind the King and the people to each other by new oaths, and, in fact, to bind, by the obligation of ſolemn oaths, the troops, of whoſe mutinuous ſpirit they were every day growing more afraid, and the national guards, who were by no means under proper ſubordination.

The grand confederation, and the reciprocal oaths of king, people, and army, took place on the 14th of July, with great ſplendour, and without any confuſion; nor can it be denied, that this ſolemn ceremony gave an apparent legality to the conſtitution, even though its foundation might have been laid by force. But the revolt of Nancy, which happened ſoon after, proved the oaths that all the regiments of the army had taken by deputy, had not retained much influence on their conduct. In many regiments, the ſoldiers, having now righted the public, had begun to think of righting their private wrongs, to complain that their officers cheated them, and to plunder the military cheſts. Theſe diſcontents had riſen at Nancy to the pitch of downright rebellion; and the Aſſembly had been obliged to authorize M. de Bouille,

Bouillé, commander at Metz, to ſuppreſs them by force of arms, which was accompliſhed, but not without conſiderable ſlaughter.

This was the ſame Bouillé, who, after having long refuſed to take the oath to preſerve the conſtitution, which was required of all the military, took it afterwards with an air of frankneſs which impoſed upon half the kingdom. The King ſeemed to think him a proper perſon to be entruſted with the care of the frontiers, and accordingly M. de Bouillé had the government of Lorrain. He it is, who has ſince been reproached with the uſeleſs maſſacre of ſome regiments (as above related) led aſtray by an extravagance of patriotiſm; with the diſaſters of Nancy, and with a civil war, which continued for ſome days between the ſoldiers and the citizens; a ſcene of diſcord, calculated to irritate the whole army, and to incenſe it againſt the nation.

Bouillé took advantage of the important poſt which had been confided to him, in order to contrive a retreat for the King upon the frontiers of Luxemburgh, a country belonging to the Emperor, and that the army which the King ſhould have might be ſupported by all the forces of Germany. To ungarriſon the frontier, to leave the ſtrong holds defenceleſs, and the arſenals without arms and ammunition; to collect about him the foreign regiments in the ſervice of France, to ſow diſſention among the national troops, to hold a correſpondence

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in the towns with the partiſans of the old government, to fortify a camp upon the frontier—were the means employed by M. de Bouillé, for making war upon the nation, whoſe pay he was then receiving.

Montmedy, a ſtrong town, was the place to which the King was to be conducted, for the purpoſe of taking the command of the nobility, and of putting himſelf at the head of a party, in oppoſition to the people.

It is ſaid, that a more ſecure retreat was preparing for the King, in a town ſituated in a foreign territory, at the diſtance of two leagues from the frontier. In vain did the citizens of thoſe diſtricts ſend notice of their defenceleſs ſituation, and of the preparations to which they were eye-witneſſes; the miniſter at war conſtantly aſſerted that all was well; the miniſter for foreign affairs gave repeated aſſurances of the amicable diſpoſitions of the other courts of Europe. The executive power, which ordered every thing, and had the diſpoſal of every thing, poſſeſſed the greateſt advantage over the nation, and underſtood perfectly well how to avail itſelf of thoſe advantages.

When the moment fixed on for the King's flight was approaching, the buſineſs of emigration proceeded with redoubled vigour; all the money that could be collected was carried out of the kingdom; in every regiment attempts were made to corrupt many of the ſoldiers;

ſoldiers; the prieſts were indefatigable in their efforts to create diſſentions in private families; ſeveral officers quitted their regiments; the commanders of the King's guards exerted their authority, in order to engage the military in the conſpiracy, and multitudes of thoſe, who had lately enjoyed the title of nobles, were ſeen eagerly flocking to the capital.

An account of the King's eſcape was ſoon ſpread through foreign countries, and ſeveral perſons at Paris received the like intelligence. The dread of popular fury, when the event ſhould be fully known, diſpeopled the caſtles and the country houſes of the gentry. Their titled inhabitants either hurried to Paris, where they imagined their ſwords might be of ſervice to them, or they abandoned the kingdom, carrying off with them conſiderable ſums of money. From their foreign retreat, they exhorted their friends to quit France.

The municipality and M. de la Fayette received advice, that the King's eſcape was very ſhortly to take place; the periodical papers announced it, and the Queen herſelf ſpoke of it, with an air of pleaſantry, to the officers of her guard, on the very evening before it happened. The members of the municipality, and M. de la Fayette, ſeemed to take ſufficient precautions to obviate ſuch an event; but their precautions were not ſufficient. The King, the Queen, their children, and Madame Elizabeth, the King's ſiſter, fled

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on the night of the 20th of June, which was preciſely the ſhorteſt night in the year. Monſieur fled likewiſe. They took the road to Montmedy, and Monſieur the road to Mons.

As ſoon as intelligence of this affair was received in foreign countries, it ſeemed no longer a doubt, that France would become a prey to all the miſeries of anarchy and civil war. However, that did not turn out to be the caſe at that time. The firſt was to the French a moment of ſurpriſe, the ſecond of calmneſs and tranquillity. Every eye was now fixed upon the National Aſſembly, the ſole but powerful reſource of a great people. At Paris, it ſeemed as if the citizens were diſencumbered of a heavy burden; they no longer had a King.

The people, by a general emotion, effaced every where his name, and defaced every where his effigy; it did the ſame with the multitude of enſigns, which, under the reign of deſpotiſm, were decorated with his titles or with his diadem; and, in the evening, there remained not a ſingle veſtige of his dignity. The national guards aſſembled under their colours, and marched to the ſound of military inſtruments to the National Aſſembly, in order to take the oath of fidelity. Their example was imitated by the citizens of Paris; and, during three hours, they were filing through the hall, and taking the oath.

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In the mean time, the Aſſembly evinced that it was worthy of the nation's confidence: it immediately iſſued orders to the ſeveral miniſters to put the laws in force. It diſpatched couriers to all the departments, with injunctions for arreſting all perſons quitting the kingdom, and with information reſpecting the meaſures adopted by the Aſſembly. It required all military perſons, who were public functionaries, to take the oath of fidelity to the nation. During that memorable ſitting, which laſted ſeven days and ſeven nights, it was occupied by preventing diſturbances, in encouraging the citizens, and in demonſtrating, both by its coolneſs and its firmneſs, that it was worthy of commanding in ſuch circumſtances.

Three days were thus ſpent without the preſence of a King, and France was united, ſtrong, and peaceable. The two parties even appeared to be on better terms throughout the kingdom, and every where the national forces were placed upon an authorative footing. But, when men figure in their minds a fugitive King, breaking his word, which he had pledged to them ſo often and ſo ſolemnly; when they reflected, that he was on the point of re-entering the kingdom at the head of a foreign army; that the neighbouring potentates were only waiting for that juncture, to invade the French empire in ſeveral places at once;

once; and that he would be followed by the multitude of nobles and great lords, indignation and fury rejected all controul, and became irreſiſtibly terrible.

In the mean time, the fugitives were triumphing at Mayence, at Coblentz, at Luxemburgh, at Bruſſels, at London, in Germany, and in Italy. Their demonſtrations of joy proceeded even to extravagance. Couriers were diſpatched to all the courts of Europe, and the French emigrants were on their march to form a junction with the King.

The fate of the kingdom was now in ſuſpenſe; and Europe anxiouſly looked on, in order to ſee how the firſt ſcene of that long and bloody tragedy would open; but a few citizens ſaved the ſtate, by arreſting the King, when he was not many leagues from the frontier. It had been long cuſtomary to ſay, that the forty thouſand municipalities of the kingdom were ſo many centinels of the revolution; that aſſertion was now proved. The members of the municipality of St. Menehould were taking the alarm at ſome movements made by the troops quartered in that city, when the Sieur Drouet, a poſt-maſter, went to give them information, that he had ſeen a carriage paſs, the appearance of which had given riſe to ſome ſuſpicion. He was ordered to follow it. The travellers had ſeemed to him to be no other than the King and Queen, and their carriage was eſcorted by

by dragoons. He took a croſs road, reached Varennes before the King, and gave notice to the poſt-maſter. As it was then midnight, previouſly to requiring aſſiſtance, or awakening any perſon, they both went to the bridge by which the travellers were to paſs, with an intention of barricading it. Fortunately, they found there a cart loaded with furniture: this cart they overturned at the entrance of the bridge. They then gave information to the precurator of the *commune*, to the mayor, and to the commanding officer of the national guard. Eight men of this guard arreſted the King, in ſpite of the huſſars, who haſtened up, ſabre in hand. They cried out to the latter, that, if they meant to tear him from them, it ſhould be as a dead man. The commandant of the national guard had ordered two pieces of cannon to be brought thither, but without either powder or ball. He pretended to be preparing to diſcharge them at the huſſars, when they inſtantly ſubmitted, and the King was made priſoner. The alarm-bell was rung every where, the national guards arrived from all quarters, the ſoldiers themſelves declared for the ſame cauſe, and M. de Bouillé, renouncing the deſign of carrying off the King, made his eſcape out of the kingdom.

The King was led back to Paris by ſome thouſands of the national guard, who had joined him on the way. The citizens

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of Varennes, who had arreſted him, accompanied him to the capital, the armed citizens of which went to receive him at ſome diſtance from the precincts. Five hundred thouſand perſons beheld him as he paſſed; but all was ſilence—ſilence, the ſullen ſignal of his people's diſapprobation!—Every head remained covered, not a hand was uplifted, and the King muſt have learned, on that day, that the people are the ſovereign. He was conducted to his palace of the Thuilleries, where the Aſſembly had ordered him a guard under the command of M. de la Fayette.

The Aſſembly, being deſirous of inſtituting an enquiry into the crime which had been committed againſt the nation, either by carrying off the King, or by favouring his eſcape, gave orders, that all thoſe who compoſed his retinue ſhould be apprehended. They were examined, and the King's mere declaration was admitted. The King declared, among other things, that his intentions had been to go to Montmedy, in order to prove to all the world that he was free, to ſecure the kingdom from foreign invaſion by a vigilant attention to the frontiers, and to viſit every place where he might conſider his preſence to be neceſſary. Several were convinced of the ſincerity of the King, to whom no ſcheme had ever been propoſed, which was not calculated to intereſt his heart: his adviſers would not have preſumed to own to him, that he was going to

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make war upon his people. Neither could it be doubted, that a propoſal had been made to all the great powers of Europe, to avail themſelves of the opportunity of invading France, and dividing it amongſt them. The honour of this ſublime idea is attributed to the elector of Mayence.

Powerful clubs began now to be formed, and, from the frequent tumults they occaſioned, we may conſider them as the principal ſources which taint the riſing liberty of France with the poiſon of licentiouſneſs. At Aix, in the month of December, many dreadful ſcenes paſſed. The gibbet-law of Paris was revived, and an officer and two lawyers were hanged for ſetting up a club in oppoſition to the clubs already exiſting, and executed in the face of the magiſtrates, who ſtood tamely by. The officer is owned to have been very indiſcreet in his cenſures of the new government: but, alas! he was fourſcore! an age that would have diſarmed the fury of an eaſtern deſpot!

From this period to the month of Auguſt, 1792, nothing permanent ſeems to have been adopted. All order ſeemed to be ſwallowed up in animoſities and jealouſies, and even the National Aſſembly appeared to have but little liberty of acting, the people frequently breaking in upon them, and obliging them to paſs ſuch decrees as they thought proper. The King, being ſuſpected of holding an illicit correſpondence with the leaders of the ariſtocratic

cratic party, was diveſted of his royalty, and ſuſpended from all his regal functions. This paved the way for a truly tragical event.

On the 8th of Auguſt, at midnight, the ſections in general appeared in a ſtate of inſurrection. Commiſſaries were appointed to repair to the city, and concert the meaſures to be taken at that critical moment. Theſe commiſſioners formed themſelves into an aſſembly, and decided, after a long debate, that the municipality ſhould be proviſionally ſuſpended, but that the authority of the chiefs of it ſhould continue; and M. Santerre was proviſionally placed at the head of the forces.

In the interior part of the caſtle, the Swiſs guards had been doubled. About two or three o'clock, a number of patroles directed their courſe to the Thuilleries. A falſe patrole was ſurpriſed in the Champs Elyſées, part of whom were ſeized, and the reſt fled. Four of them had very ſharp daggers, and piſtols which diſcharged twelve balls at a time. Theſe four, among whom was a prieſt, were put to death by the people, and their heads carried on pikes.

The gates of the arſenal had been opened; thither the people went, and furniſhed themſelves with arms. At about ſix in the morning, they were in motion in all parts of the capital. Different detachments of national guards, citizens armed with pikes, the Marſeillois, federate Bretons, and others, drew

themſelves up in order of battle, in the Place de Carouſel. The Swiſs ſaluted the citizens with their caps, crying, *Vive la Nation!* and ſhook hands with the Marſeillois. On a ſudden, a general diſcharge was made from the windows by the Swiſs; the balls poured down in ſhowers, and the citizens fled; but the Marſeillois and the Bretons rallied; the Pariſians ſeconded them, and the fire was returned.

They then ruſhed into the Carouſel, and, notwithſtanding the heavy fire kept up by the Swiſs from the grand ſtaircaſe, penetrated as far as the Terrace, on which the Swiſs laid down their arms; but a great number of Marſeillois, federates, and citizens of Paris having been killed, revenge actuated their companions, and they maſſacred all the Swiſs they met. Many, however, hid themſelves in the cellars; eighty were conducted by the National Guard to the Town-hall, and endeavours were made to ſave them, but in vain. Vengeance was the word, and they all ſuffered.

The caſtle of the Thuelleries was in the power of the citizens; the buildings which ſeparated the Place de Carouſel were already on fire. The furniture of the caſtle was thrown out of the windows, and the windows all broken. Thoſe, however, who were found purloining any of the effects, were taken to the Place de Vendome, and, after a ſort of trial, were immediately put to death by the people.

people. A number of citizens paraded about with part of the bloody apparel of the Swiſs on their pikes and bayonets.

Amidſt all this diſorder and ſcenes of bloodſhed, it was aſtoniſhing to ſee the crowds of men, women, and children, unarmed, whom curioſity had attracted, walking about with the utmoſt compoſure.

About eight o'clock, the approach of night, the light of the flambeaus almoſt extinguiſhed, the ſight of the dead and almoſt naked bodies of the Swiſs, and the confuſed cries of the multitude, filled the mind with horror and terror. The King, and the Royal Family, took refuge in the National Aſſembly.

Towards the latter end of the next month, September, the *National Convention* met, and paſſed the four following decrees. 1ſt. There is no conſtitution, but that which the people adopt in their primary aſſemblies. 2d. Perſons and property are under the ſafeguard of the nation. 3d. The actual conſtituted powers and taxes exiſt, until the National Convention ſhall otherwiſe ordain. 4th. That Monarchy ſhall for ever be aboliſhed in France, and that the nation ſhall aſſume the form of a Republic.

Thus have we given a conciſe hiſtory of France from the earlieſt period to the extinction of its monarchy Nothing can afford a more ſtriking inſtance of the inſtability of human grandeur and power than the late revolutions

volutions in France. In Lewis the Sixteenth we ſee an unfortunate prince, who, but a ſhort time ſince, was the idol of his people, though one of the moſt abſolute monarchs upon earth, courted by his neighbours, and dreaded by every foreign power.—Alas, how ſad is now the reverſe! Diveſted of royalty, power, and riches, inſulted by the very people of whom he was lately the idol, the blood of his nobles and adherents triumphantly ſhed, himſelf a cloſe priſoner, in want of many of the common neceſſaries of life, and reduced to a ſtate ſo abject and miſerable, that the moſt wretched of his late ſubjects may now look down on him as more to be pitied than themſelves. May not ſuch an unfortunate prince emphatically exclaim,—*O Death! where is thy Sting? and O Grave! where is thy Victory?*

THE END.

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